

Konstantin Sakharow

THE  
CZECHS LEGIONS  
IN  
SIBERIA

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The outbreak of Russian bolshevism and the separate peace negotiations by the Bolsheviks with the Central Powers have put the opportunistic leaders of the Czech legions before new, difficult tasks. They had neither inclination, nor courage to defend the cause of their ally, nationalist Russia in a self-sacrificing way.

On the other hand, they could hardly join the Russian Bolsheviks without risking the good will of the Allied Powers. Thus, they have decided to retreat from Russia, and they have conducted it mercilessly and without any regard to Russian interests. Moving sometimes between Bolshevik, and sometimes between Koltchak's anti-Bolshevik troops, they have made every effort to secure for themselves just and unjust advantages to the detriment of each party. Their selfish and relentless conduct was not without results: a large part of the gold reserves and of the military equipment of the Russian state fell into their possession. Sometimes this success demanded a high price on their part. Their betrayal of Admiral Koltchak and the handing over of the counterrevolutionary Russian army to the executioners were probably the most sinister, and, at the same time, the most memorable episodes of the Czech "Anabasis".

## TO THE READER!

The present edition of the Czarist Russian general Konstantin Viacheslavovich Sakharov's recollections of the deeds and actions of the Czech legionaries in Siberia toward the end of World War I is based mainly upon a Hungarian language edition of the original which was first published in German. (The Hungarian version reappeared recently in a privately issued facsimile edition.) The German editions are available at the Library of Congress and are listed in the Bibliography of this volume, the Hungarian editions are not among the Library "s holdings.

An English publication of General Sakharov"s work appeared to be necessary in the light of recent attempts which have tried to glorify the "important roles and achievements" of the Czech legionaries in Siberia.

The truth is that the Czech "legionaries", following a string of criminal actions and other unethical deeds (one of them being the capture and extradition of Admiral Koltchak, the head of the anti-Bolshevik Russian forces, to his Red enemies, and his subsequent execution by them), returned to their European home- land loaded with uncountable treasures of Russia. Among them was a large part of the gold reserves of the Russian state banking system. To this enormous loot which was plundered by the Czechs during the deadly struggle of their ally, the Czarist Russian (White) Army and the remnants of the Russian State, came many millions of British pounds and American dollars which the "Masaryk emigration" managed to negotiate out of the Western allies in order to assist the "new democratic state of Czecho- slovakia".

It happaned largely on the basis of their loudly claimed "successful anti-Bolshevik military and political operations in Russia". Subsequently, the Czechs were recognized by the Western Allies and Japan as "belligerents" against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and were seated at the Peace Conference at Paris after World War I. This recognition enabled the Czech leaders Masaryk and Benes to carve out Czechoslovakia

(which has not been existed before) from the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, swallowing also several millions of Sudeten Germans, and almost two millions of Hungarians, then, to turn that new state into a powerful propaganda center for radical leftist causes and forces directed against Central Europe; the Czechoslovak governments have financed and directed the operations of émigré Soviet politicians who organized Communist cells in Hungary and other countries.

Czech historians have never devalued the actions of the glorified "Czech Legions", and did not condemn their horrible actions. Instead, they have artificially created a "myth" surrounding them. Therefore, the book by the Russian general Sakharov, an authentic eyewitness, and a highly educated critic of those acts of the Czechs in Siberia as well as of their "generals" (who later became prominent and very influential in the political, military and social circles of post-World War I Czechoslovakia) is of eminent importance. The information flowing from the chapters of General Sakharov's work should be also welcomed by those, including the present and future leaders of contemporary Czechoslovakia (now renamed the "Czech and Slovak Federated Republic") who have expressed interest in the rebuilding of the ethical foundations of their country.

In this respect, their and the world's attention should be called to the emergence of that cynical propaganda system and its "projects" which had a large part of their roots in the "practice" of the Czech military leaders operating in the Far East.

The Czech Legions which were personally established during World War I in the prisoner-of-war camps in Russia by Thomas G. Masaryk, Czechoslovakia's future president, and were supported by Edward Benes, Masaryk's partner in the emigration, then foreign minister, and later, after Masaryk's death, his successor as president of the republic, applied many of the selfish, cynical tactics in the Far East which have been developed by those two Czech leaders in the West, particularly in the United States.

In their propaganda campaigns which were directed toward the complete destruction of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Masaryk and Benes concentrated upon the saturation of the White House of President Wilson and his government with an avalanche of suggestions and memoranda, supported by a never

ending flow of news reports via the American news agencies and the press, which — as Masaryk so proudly stated later — came entirely under their influence.

This hitherto unparalleled success by foreigners in forming American public opinion and foreign policies was the result of a tactically well planned, well directed and executed master plan which was applied after the demise of President Wilson and his Democratic Party, to the various governments in Europe as well as to the poisonous world of the new League of Nations. There, Masaryk, and, particularly his foreign minister, Benes, managed to dictate the acceptance of their political positions to the leading powers of Europe, particularly to defeated Germany, because, in the absence of the United States (the Congress declined to submit this great country to the mockery of justice which pervaded the "policies" of that body) there was no other power to stand up to Benes and associates.

The same "strategies", the politics of exploitation and betrayal which have been practiced by Masaryk and Benes in the west (for example, in connection with the "Pact of Pittsburgh", looked upon by the Slovaks as a foundation of their constitutional rights in Czechoslovakia), became the trademark of the behavioral pattern of the Czech generals in Siberia. The commander-in-chief of the White Russian Army, Admiral Koltchak, because of his great character traits, was soon recognized by the Czechs as their "Enemy Number One". Accordingly, they have developed a plan for his elimination.

The destruction of the leader of the anti-Bolshevik Russian forces (an army which originally, and still at the time when this treacherous plan was developed, was allied with the Czechs!), had to be conducted with the greatest care and timing. Its possible publicity waves had to be handled with a delicate application of the Czechs' contacts with the news media, particularly in the United States. As an example let us follow the apportioning of the news materials by the Czechs to the eminently important American newspaper, The New York Times.

The typically "Czech operation" against Admiral Koltchak began with the isolation of the Admiral: an appeal of the "Czechoslovak Armies", dated December 17, 1919, was directed to the Allies "against hampering the Czechs' operation of the Trans-Siberian Railroad". By January 1, 1920, The New York Times

reported about a "Czech offer" of escorting the Admiral to Vladivostok, but only "as a private citizen". On January 11, the same newspaper reported that Koltchak was captured and arrested at Irkutsk by his own premier Pepeliayev who is said to have ordered him to hand over all control.

On January 16, the Bolsheviks claimed his capture for themselves. He is said to be held in Transbaikalia by "Social Revolutionaries" who upon this success formed a new government.

Then, on January 18, the Allies have asked the Czechs to safeguard Koltchak. After a relatively long interval, a week later, on January 24, the New York Times reported that Koltchak is held prisoner at Irkutsk by the Reds, and that he will be tried. Two days later, on January 26, it is reported that he was captured together with his entire ministry at Irkutsk by the Reds. Then, on January 31, the same paper reports that he escaped from the Bolsheviks and is hiding in Manchuria. (This was intended for the soothing of the troubled souls in the West, who were concerned about the fate of the Russian admiral.) Still on February 1, the New York paper reported that the Russian general Semenoff asked the Allies to aid Koltchak's release from captivity.

On the other hand, the paper reported that French premier Alexander Millerand "demanded reasons" from French general Janin (who was nominally appointed as commander-in-chief of all Czech forces but, in reality, he was a helpless tool of the Czechs being paid by them handsomely), why Koltchak had been surrendered by him to the enemies of the Russian admiral. Janin replied to A. Millerand (according to a report of the paper dated January 30) that Koltchak was surrendered by "the troops".

Right on the heel of this explanation came the published report on a "further explanation" of the Czech general Gayda, a very sinister character who already had to be dismissed and reduced in rank by Koltchak, "about the differences between the Czechs and the executed Russian admiral".

This sequence of news was followed by "various accounts" of Koltchak's death published in The New York Times on February 1, 12, 14, 22 and 27, thus washing away the last footprints of the real murderers of the Russian admiral. At the same time, the news informed the American public that the Russian state treasures were taken by the Bolsheviks, without mentioning that large parts of them were "secured" by the Czechs

At this point American interest in the fate of the Russian admiral have ceased, at least for the time being.

The British counter-part of the New York paper, The Times (London) did not express much interest in the "troublesome" Russian admiral's tragic fate. There is, however, an interesting episode which still deserves a lasting interest on the part of posterity: during the increasing storm of the debate over the Bolsheviks in the British Parliament, Winston Churchill was forced to defend himself against the charge of the trade unions that he concluded an agreement with Koltchak to that effect that British troops were to be sent to him to crush Soviet Russia. (As it was well-known, Socialist Thomas Masaryk and his agents had close contacts with the Leftist and pro-Soviet trade unions in England.)

Let us now have a few more notes for the information of the Reader.

The translated text in the present edition is enhanced by a combined index of personal and geographical (including place) names, and by a set of subject terms derived from the text. A short, -selective Bibliography at the end of the volume lists works (including previous editions in German by General Sakharov), also publications related to the Czech (Czechoslovakia) Legion. works by Edward Benes and Thomas G. Masaryk, to the so-called "Masarykism", and Masaryk's contacts with America. All publications listed in the Bibliography are available at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., as indicated by the Library's cataloging numbers printed after each title.

Zoltan Somogyi  
Publisher

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## PREFACE

The work by the Russian Major General Konstantin Sakharov entitled "The Czech Legions in Siberia" can count on undivided interest of the public. The Major General was the commander-in-chief of the counter-revolutionary army of Admiral Koltchak in Siberia; he assumed the long lasting, tragic struggle against the Bolshevik revolution; at the price of endless sufferings and efforts, he penetrated Asian Siberia. However, in the end, the all annihilating conditions of the endless Russian plain and of the merciless winter finished off his undertaking in the same way as they did the one by the great Napoleon. Judenitch, Denikin, Baron Wrangel: the attempts by these patriotic, brave Russian soldiers have suffered the same outcome earlier.

However, the attempts by Admiral Koltchak may count on special interest by Europe, well beyond the sympathy and respect which are due to the counterrevolutionary heroes. Namely, this Russian nationalist movement was not destroyed only by the resistance of the Reds and the murderous winter in Russia but its fate was sealed mainly by that Czech military environment which, loaded by then with the rich loot, headed across Siberia for the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and along its way, confiscated mercilessly, for its own convenience, trains, and occupied cities, thus exposing the hosting Russian army to its pursuers, — not being deterred even from the most sinister sin, the treason, when it meant financial advantages for itself!

Up to this time, this Czech military cooperation was known to us from onesided descriptions. Masaryk, the president of the republic and Edward Benes praised this retreat under the title "Anabasis" from which they weave a veritable epic of the Czech nation. These Czech legions, these Czech armed forces which were organized in Russia, have started in the course of the World War from here, from the Carpathians, from the front lines in Galicia and Poland, — from our front lines where they have switched over to the enemy during the battles, or unseen, by night, cutting dangerous gaps in our lines. So did they start, these Czech founding

fathers on their new road, their "Anabasis", the organizer of which in Russia was Thomas Masaryk who established the Czech legions in the Russian prisoner-of-war camps with the permission of the Czar. At the expenses of Russia, he equipped, clothed and organized the Czech deserters in military units, then he made an agreement with Czarist Russia, and, from then on, the Czech legions were functioning as units of the Czarist Russian army as long as the Czar was in power and paid them. But then came Kerenski's revolution. The Czech Legion greeted him also with great joy, and it managed to look out again with success for its own earthly well-being, provisioning and freedom from molestation. The outbreak of Russian bolshevism and the separate peace negotiations by the Bolsheviks with the Central Powers have put the opportunistic leaders of the Czech legions before new, difficult tasks. They had neither inclination, nor courage to defend the cause of their ally, nationalist Russia in a self-sacrificing way.

On the other hand, they could hardly join the Russian Bolsheviks without risking the good will of the Allied Powers. Thus, they have decided to retreat from Russia, and they have conducted it mercilessly and without any regard to Russian interests. Moving sometimes between Bolsheviks, and sometimes between Koltchak's anti-Bolshevik troops, they have made every effort to secure for themselves just and unjust advantages to the detriment of each party. Their selfish and relentless conduct was not without results: a large part of the gold reserves and of the military equipment of the Russian state fell into their possession. Sometimes this success demanded a high price on their part. Their betrayal of Admiral Koltchak and the handing over of the Counter-revolutionary Russian army to the executioners were probably the most sinister and, at the same time, the most memorable episodes of the Czech "Anabasis".

The way the Czech legionaries handled the defenseless Hungarian prisoners of war who were turned over by them: how inhumanely they were massacred by them, and how they were robbed by them of everything they had, were told us in those times in reports which have reached us from Siberia. However, about the way the Czech Legion paid its gratitude toward its Russian ally, Major General Konstantin Sakharow, a most authentic eyewitness gives an account to the Hungarian public. This work

has historical importance because the Czechs were recognized by the Allied Powers as independent belligerents. By this recognition, the land of the Czechs had been awarded historical merits, by which they could take a seat at the negotiating table at Versailles on the side of the victors. The "Anabasis" in Russia was the moral basis upon which Czecho-Slovakia has been built up through a well directed propaganda! This moral basis is described by Major General Sakharow, and, when the review of the Czecho-Slovak state will be completed by world public opinion, this book, as a historical source will provide decisive arguments for the administration of historical justice.

However, there is still another important point which should make the work and activities by Major General Sakharow sympathetic before the Hungarian public, and this is the Russian nationalist spirit of the General. Sakharow stands in sharp contrast to the Pan Slavists. He clearly knows that the downfall of Russia was caused by the foggy panslavism which has tried to expand senselessly and to conquer to the detriment of other nations; it has created rightful antipathy in the souls of the non-Slavic peoples which have recognized the most powerful source of danger to their survival in the imperialistic and menacing panslavism. Major General Sakharow is a Russian nationalist in the most noble meaning of the word, the natural barrier of his political and national objectives being the ethno graphical boundaries of the Russian people. His political ideal is not the unification, assimilation or subjugation of the peoples of Slavic origin, but the spiritual and material revival of the Russian people in its own land, in its own country, through its own moral, artistic and material means, by which the world has been enriched already, none of which are the products of the halfbaked panslavistic ideas but of the correctly accentuated and envisioned Russian national concept. We Hungarians have all the proper reasons to appreciate and embrace this honest Russian nationalism which, contrary to the policies of panslavism which are dangerous to them as well as to other nations, recognizes its own ideals in a true fashion. The endless Russian plain where some time ago our own Hungarian people had their wanderings also, creates, in many aspects, a similar attitude as the great Hungarian plain. Cekhov, Turgenyev, Gogoly created characters who are often similar to the landowners, and to our own acquaintances in the Tisza region, and the Russian

people which reside in the border lands of the European and Asian culture, even in this transitory character of their lives provide many similarities to the Hungarians. A Russian nationalism, which would assess its own values correctly, which would turn against the Panslavist excesses, could be an honest and straightforward friend of Hungarian nationalism, if, returned to the home ground of its own fatherland, there, following the disillusioning experiences, gained with panslavism and bolshevism, could put its own arrangements into reality in the spirit of Russia. Let me greet Major General Konstantin Sahharow and his work as 'the objective recorder of the events of the recent past, and, simultaneously, as the propagator of an enlightened Russian nationalism by recommending them wholeheartedly to the attention and sympathy of the Hungarian public.  
Budapest, March 29, 1932.

E.T.

## **TO THE HUNGARIAN PUBLIC!**

All peoples in the world are carrying the weights of the post-war times very hardly. Everybody feels that something unjust happened to him. The earth resounds from complaints about human misery...

There is not much difference between the subjects of the so-called victorious states and between those who are suffering under the burden of the peace treaties; there is not much difference with respect to the worries of the future. The consequences of the World War serve proof that this war could not eliminate the causes of the World War in any way; on the contrary, it just made them more evident and obvious. We, Russians, do not belong to the victorious but to the subjugated peoples of the post-war times who are raising their voices against the peace treaties that make a mockery of every hope for a real peace. The whole world, but particularly those countries which are suffering under the yoke of the peace dictates, are experiencing a misery unprecedented in history.

But all these difficulties are exceeded by the unspeakable sufferings of the Russian people which almost surpass the martyrdom of the early Christians. However, as those times of martyrdom helped to spring forth a new life for Christendom, right and justice will also tip the scale to the advantage of Russia. Russia which is now thrown into slavery will also exude a new life, a victory over all misfortunes.

Her soil was soaked with blood and tears for fifteen years already. Millions of her children, from all layers of her population, were victimized. She is not a great power anymore! Even her name has vanished from the surface of the earth, and it was replaced by the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics!

An international organization of sinister characters has disgraced her, and plunged a people of 150 million into the most horrifying slavery...

We, contemporaries, cannot give even a rough estimate of the extent and importance of the sufferings of Russia and her

people. Neither that of the sufferings in the homeland where, at the present, all divine and human rights are trampled down, nor in the emigration where over a million Russians are going through the joyless days far from their fatherland.

Russia has become a real torture chamber for her children. Although she was endowed by God with all the earthly goods, she fell into the greatest need and misery, and her people are not granted even the right to work freely and to earn their daily bread.

Her children are forcibly destructed. Even prayer is prohibited! Bloody terror, punitive campaigns of incomparable horror, a farfetched spy network keep the people in strict subordination. International criminals are exercising power by enlisting inhuman executioners. In the frontline of them, are Stalin Dzhugasvili, Kalinin, Bela Kun and others.

But there will come a day of resurrection for Russia! All those who remained loyal in foreign lands also, will unite their lives and forces with those of their brothers at home.

Our hearts go out for those whose fate is to live and suffer over there. In the first place, this work by me is dedicated to them. The common fruit of our labors will be the resurrection of Russia. The faith, that, in the end, good will win over the evil, has never left the Russians. We are all convinced that the day of our victory will come regardless how long time will pass till then and how much we have to suffer before that.

My book provides the description of bewildering events which present one of the stations of the calvary of sufferings. This description rings out the HORRIBLE ACCUSATION OF TREASON, that treason, a more despicable of which has not been committed since humans are populating this earth. A treason by those who did not shrink back from naming their victim their "brother" and "friend".

My book was written first of all for the purpose to make known events which really happened and are documented to the widest circles of readers, in a short and concise way.

However, its purpose is also to keep constantly in the memory those things which actually happened and to keep them alive in the mind of our contemporaries. Otherwise, how easily many things fall in oblivion in the course of the years, particularly, if their messages are deliberately suppressed, falsified and are referred to as impossible fantasies! The hard times are gradually

passing by and the memories of our sufferings are also passing with the times.

The atonement which Russia had to pay and still has to pay for her old sins is great. But still greater punishment is deserved by those who drove Russia on the road of still greater mistakes and new errors. We are daily admonished by the horrible sacrifices which are paid and will still be paid in the future by our un fortunate fatherland, to prove the saddening truth of our statement.

The purpose of my book is to serve data on a peopled penitence which surpasses human abilities. It is possible that many of the older generation would not be able to cut their ties to the past but the younger ones who will take their places very soon should regard it as a command for their life that the road of hesitations would never lead to victory only to destruction.

This is what we have to understand: standing firmly on our feet, we will not have any difficulty to fulfill our duties, to restore our country to her old glory!

When I am talking now to the Hungarian people, I can not miss the opportunity to express the feeling and the way of thinking that are ensconced in the soul of the Russian people.

We, Russians have learned only now, in the desperate times of our exile, in its full meaning, how gravely, much more gravely than other people, how fate has treated the people of Hungary.

The thousand year old crown of St. Stephen has been robbed of its most beautiful ornaments and the once so perfect jewel is now lying on the ground broken to pieces...

The Hungarian nation has suffered also very extensively at the hands of panslavism. But the fresh forces of her people made it possible to survive the heavy blows of the post-war times and to retain a strong will and invincible faith in life. When now, in the possession of a perspective widened by war and exile we are observing the Hungarian people, we find many similarities between the Russian peasant and the Hungarian. These similarities may arise from the common ancestors of the Russian and Hungarian peoples who some time ago used to live together on the plains between the Volga and Dnieper rivers. The similarities are the characteristics of those ancestors who are the ancestors of the Hungarian also, that is, the Turanians.

A future Russia, meaning Eurasia will be mindful of this even more because we had to bitterly realize that exactly we, Russian and Hungarians had to suffer the most at the hands of some Slavs.

The Hungarian edition of my book should be the first cornerstone to the historical edifice of this future. I recommend it to the soldiers and the leaders who are coming out of the Hungarian people. I believe in God's righteousness, in the law of justice and right, I believe that the rights of the Russian and Hungarian peoples which are now trampled under foot and the days of their joyful resurrection will arrive.

However, I believe also that all other nations in which honesty and justice are still alive, will side with this justice.

To bring this justice to light I am handing over this book which I recommend to the special attention of the reader, the Hungarian public!

Berlin, the Month of April, 1932.

Konstantin W. Sakharow,  
Major General

„ What is your name?  
And he said: Legion, because many devils went into him.  
(Luke, 8, 30)

### **Shadows of the World War**

The greatest of all wars has shaken the foundations of the world which is still staggering, and threatens to collapse at every moment. Because, really, the war is not finished yet. That the peace treaties of Trianon and Versailles had been brought peace to mankind, and mankind had ceased to prepare for a new struggle, it can be stated only by a hypocrite, or by somebody who finds special enjoyment in conducting the policy of an ostrich. War was shifted only to other areas, and war had taken up only new forms. Some meaningful change can be observed only in the positioning and grouping of the forces which are fighting each other.

An empire like Russia which occupies one sixth of the solid land mass of the earth, and which is inhabited by a farming population of simple culture, was handed over to communism, and, thus, it became the theatre for wicked dictatorship. The Russian people did not let subjugate themselves without any resistance. For three years, they have fought a struggle for life or death against the Communists. When the whites, the national Russian military were near to achieving a victory over the Reds, the troops of the Soviets, the treachery at Versailles was concluded. It was possible only that way that communism should have established itself already for 14 years in Russia.

The peacemakers, (the same cynically smiling people who were dreaming of revenge all the way, and were pre-

paring for war) assign the only responsibility for the war to Germany and Hungary. They took away the arms from the defeated nations, they made them defenseless, and they have demanded the payment of all those milliards from them which, through four long years of the war, have been fired away by almost every nation of the world from the death-bringing cannons...

It is clear by now that, if Germany and Russia had been marching together, there would not have been any war. The will of these two powers if united, could have directed the whole of Europe. This view has by now more and more followers all over Europe. The politicians at Versailles feared the future possibilities of such an association and that is why they had to turn Russia over to communism, while, simultaneously, they shifted the responsibility for that on the Germans. They have cut Europe in pieces like butchers, and they masked their real goals in the well-tailored cloaks of self determination rights and minority rights for the peoples. In Europe, a whole set of artificial states was created: Czechoslovakia, with the region of the Sudeten-Germans, with the purely Hungarian areas, with Slovakia, and the Carpathian Ruthenia, Poland with the corridor, Silesia, Galicia, Volhynia and Vilna, Lithuania with the Memel area etc.

In the place of an Elsass-Lorraine, they have created a whole set of new, irredentist states, by which the peace treaties of Trianon, St. Germain and Versailles have sown the seeds of new wars, for which the victors are preparing with full force after they had disarmed the defeated nations...

The war of the Tripple Alliance against the Central Powers was concluded without the participation of Russia. Russia made most of the sacrifices in the interest of the Allied Powers, and was forced to leave the ranks of the belligerents because of her domestic troubles. In her place, immediately prior to the conclusion of the World War, America stepped into the ranks of the fighting powers.

Unquestionably, the World War could have been

concluded earlier, and it would have required less in human and material losses if America had intervened in 1915 or, the latest, in 1916. But America had preferred, at that time, to preserve its neutrality and to continue the business of the war contracts with the belligerents. These contracts took out the gold from Europe which was just rushed over to the New World...

But, even this way, the end of the World War did not come about by a decisive victory of the Allied Powers fought out on the battlefields, but by the collapse of the Central Powers, which fell victim to the pacifist propaganda, and, like Russia, to the Bolshevik revolution. America's intervention in the war and the appearance of her fresh troops in Europe contributed to a considerable degree to this outcome. The New World has put its cards on the safe winner. Thus, the conclusion of the World War divided the peoples not into victors and defeated, but into winners and losers.

As, in Brest-Litovsk, a thoroughly shaken Russian had to face the Central Powers which, at that time, still appeared to be quite vigorous, so the Central Powers had to stand also during the peace negotiations around Paris before the opposing powers, which were replete with arms and material resources. Russia and the Central Powers shared the same fate: they are not the defeated but the losers of the war. Namely, Russia belongs also to the camp of those who were fleeced in the war, and she had to pay for the political mistakes of the past, even more than the other states. However, they still have to calculate with Russia in the future. The Western powers know it very well that the downfall of this powerful empire is only temporary, and the time will come when Russia like a phoenix, will be resurrected from its ruinous state. And, then, it will not square her account with Germany but with those who created the peace treaties.

As we have mentioned already, Russia, even in her isolated and weakened state, would have gotten rid of

bolshevism if a treacherous push had not hit her from behind. This "act of Cain" was done by the Czechs in Siberia which was the center of the nationalist defense and where, right at that time, a new state order was emerging. Another term than "act of Cain" cannot be used in connection with the outrageous treason by the Czechs. When they had the dagger hidden in their hand, ready for stabbing, they still have called the Russian people their beloved brothers and Russia their beloved mother.

As an army commandant and as one of the closest collaborators of Admiral Koltchak, I was standing there in the center of one of the greatest tragedies of the Russian people and I have witnessed that monstrous role which was played by the Czechs in Siberia. They have betrayed the White Russian army and its leaders. They made friends with the Bolsheviks. They were fleeing like a cowardly horde to the East. They have treated a defenseless population with brute force. They have committed innumerable murders. They have stolen private and state property worth many hundreds of millions of gold rubels and took it home with themselves from Siberia.

It is possible that, not after centuries but after a few decades, the peoples of the world will go to war again in their quest for political justice. The earthly remains of the Czech legions of Siberia would have turned to dust long ago and the possessions stolen by them could have been annihilated. But the treason by the Czechs cannot ever be forgotten, those unspeakable sufferings which they had brought upon Russia. The memory of this abominable deed will go from mouth to mouth, from father to son through the coming generations. The Czechs themselves had built a monument for themselves with the following indestructible inscription: "This is the work of the Czech army in Siberia!"

The Russian people will ask some time later the Czech and Slovak peoples: how could they join up with traitors, and how do they think about the reparation of the acts committed against Russia? The Czech politicians, the

creators of the new state did not call to account the perpetrators of the monstrous deeds and did not denounce them. On the contrary, they were covered with haloes of glory.

I shall quote later statements by two Czech statesmen, Professor Masaryk and Dr. Benes, which are intended to mislead the public in the civilized countries on the role of the Czechs in Siberia. Masaryk and Benes might as well believe that they cannot be caught lying because Siberia is very far, because Russia has no national state power at the present time, and the Bolsheviki themselves have the largest stake in being silent about the things which happened there. And the representatives of the Allied Powers who are well acquainted with the behavior of the Czechs are wrapped in deep silence for some mysterious reasons. Consequently, the public in the civilized states, particularly under the influence of the Czech propaganda, is in complete ignorance with respect to the actual state of affairs.

Quite surely, it is not purely Russia's duty to shed light on this sinister affair but it should be the task of all honestly thinking men in every nation. "It is a matter of conscience in every true democracy", emphasize the Czechs themselves, "to get mercilessly at the truth." It has to be demanded in the interest of the whole world that the role of the Czechs in Russia be condemned unequivocally. If it does not happen, there shall be a state in Europe that will not only tolerate murderers, rapists, and thieves among its ranks without punishing them but which appoints them to high positions and lionizes them as national heroes.

The documentary materials of those times have been collected and they are presented now in this book that is destined to be published for the occasion of the 10th jubilee year of the Czech "Anabasis" of 1920.

Note: The first edition of General Sakharow's work, entitled "Die tschechischen Legionen in Sibirien" was published in 1930.

## **The "Pan-Slavic" Delusion**

Undoubtedly, old, Imperial Russia deluded herself within the false beliefs of panslavism and a new, nationalist Russia would have cured herself out of them once and for all. Although the panslavic idea was basically an extremely superficial movement (which could never set roots in the broad masses of the people), nevertheless, in the course of the last fifty years, it had strong influence on the public life of Russia before the World War.

The panslavism originated in the first half of the last century, and, in the beginning, it was confined to the theoretical and literary demonstrations of the affiliations, languages and customs of all Slavic peoples. In a short time, however, under the influence of the news that the Bulgarians and Serbians are oppressed in Turkey, these scientific and idealistic presentations became mixed with political interests. This has been the age of sentimentalism. The sympathy for the weak, for those who needed help, the small Christian tribes against the infidels, was a real fashion in those times in the social circles of all European nations.

Simultaneously with this movement, the Russian-Turkish war went on in 1877-78 which, as it is known, was concluded with the liberation of the Serbians and Bulgarians. The independence of these states cost a lot in Russian blood. The sacrifices, of course, have contributed to the intensification of the "Pan-Slavic" ideas in Russia. In those times, we find among the prominent "Pan-Slavists", on the side of the scholars and theoreticians, influential political and military leaders like Tchernishov, Skobelev, Ignatiev, and others. These men played important roles in the Russian society, and were of decisive importance

on the fate of Russia. They have thrown themselves into the service of panslavism with fanatical fervor, and they made it a powerful component in domestic and foreign politics alike. The panslavic aspirations were adjusted to the national characteristics of the people, and, thus, panslavism achieved a golden age during the reign of Alexander III.

This development was strongly influenced by two factors from outside Russia:

1. The Abandonment of Bismarck's policy by
2. Germany and, together with it, by Austro-Hungary.

Already the Berlin Congress has left a feeling of disappointment in the Petersburg society and, with it, in Russia. In the course of the centuries, the ever-growing ties of Russia to Germany and Austria-Hungary which culminated in the so-called Holy Alliance, became very loose. More and more, Central Europe has felt an antipathy toward the idea inherited from Bismarck, and, particularly with the German politicians, a westward orientation became increasingly visible. They have turned their back on Russia; in fact, they have looked at her with hostile feeling.

2. The second factor was the secret agreement that has been concluded by Czar Alexander III with France. This unnatural alliance between an autocratic and patriarchal monarchy and a restless republic that was striving always for revenge was regarded as a counter-weight against the western orientation of Germany, as mentioned before. In the intrigues, panslavism has been used as a very proper tool for the realization of their purposes, and Germany and Russia have been completely alienated from each other.

Panslavism has achieved its culmination in the last years of the reign of Czar Nicolaus II who was clinging to the memory of his father in an idolizing way, and it has been awarded official recognition and government support also. Representatives of the panslavic idea mushroomed at Petersburg and in every other Slavic capital city which were serving the idea for political and personal

gains. All of the smaller Slavic peoples have bowed to the powerful Imperial Russia; they have sworn allegiance to her, and, in exchange for it, they have enjoyed regular support.

In the majority, however, the Russian people remained unaffected by panslavism in the future too, and looked at this idea rightfully as superfluous and outlandish.

Political panslavism was completely unsuccessful. Although the majority of the population in Russia consisted of Slavs, we should not forget that many other Russian citizens belonged to other races that did not have to do much with the Slavs. It is enough to mention the Baltic and Volga Germans, the tribes of the Caucasus, the Tartars, the Bashkirs, the Kirghizes, the Finnish tribes, etc. For centuries, they were all loyal sons of the Empire and subjects of the Czar, and they have been fighting under Russian flags for Russia. On the other hand, the entirely Slavic people of Poland were sworn enemies of Russia throughout her thousand year old history.

Consequently, it was unquestionably mistaken from a political point of view, as well as illegal, to force the panslavic idea on these races also. Therefore, it can be questioned rightfully, if the Russian state had the right to use the material means and the armed forces of the country in the interest of alien Slavic peoples, could it be permissible to waste Russian blood for the liberation and independence of the scattered, smaller Slavic peoples?

Political reasoning will give an answer in the negative. Russia did not have the right to let the direction of her foreign policies be influenced by a unilaterally oriented, faked-up idea.

History has proved it to be an error and Russia has to atone for it. Because, while those states that had been helped by her, like Czechoslovakia and Poland which, under advantageous conditions became stronger, the Russian power got broken, and the Russian population still has to tolerate the domination of the bloodthirsty bolshevism over them...

The smaller Slavic nations which some time ago have been supported by Russia, did not only refuse to help Russia but they also aimed at the exploitation of Russia's horrible situation for some small economic gains, and they have viewed coldly the struggle of the Russian national forces against the Bolsheviks, to whom they even have accorded their assistance whenever they could expect some things to gain out of it.

There is still an other circumstance to which we have to pay attention. The new Slavic states, that have been created by the Western Powers, had their favorable leanings toward France right from the beginning and became her obedient servants at the end. French politicians have used the idea of panslavism for their own ends while it turned out only harmful for Russia. In 1914, it was still powerful and important, having ever increasing material means and credits at its disposal. Panslavism increased and flourished, like a poisonous, harmful animal. Thus, it is only natural that this growth of panslavism received unfavorable reception and open resistance particularly in Austro-Hungary that has united numerous Slavic ethnic groups under her reign. Consequently, panslavism became a source of eternal conflicts, and the cause of those catastrophical collisions which, then, have reached their culmination in the World War.

The first occasion for the hostilities was served by the small state of Serbia which appeared to Russia as her duty of the highest rank to be defended. The flames of a world-wide fire, incalculable in its enormity, have dashed over the head of Europe.

Well before the World War, the politicians of the Entente Powers have used panslavism, in part, for the undermining of the military forces and the states of their adversaries, and, on the the other hand, for the augmentation of their own power. They have used it for the continuation of propaganda in the interest of the Polish and Czech independence, for which they made binding promises. In August 1914, the Archduke Nicolai Nicolaievich, supreme

commander of the Russian armed forces, called up the Slavic peoples of Austro-Hungary to open revolt.

By this time, the states of the Allied Powers began to establish military units of Czechs, Poles, and Serbians for the increase of their own power and the weakening of the adversary. At the same time it has been decided that they will establish a Czech battalion also in Russia. This so-called drushina, which has some 800 men, was formed, in part, of Czechs who, as Russian subjects were living in the Volhynia, and, in part, of Czechs who as Austrian subjects, were found in Russia at the outbreak of the World War. In November 1914, this battalion was placed into the regular Russian army.

While at Petersburg and in other centers, right up to the headquarters, the Czech units have been greeted with delight, the regular Russian army had a downright unsympathetic attitude toward the Czech corps. And, when Czech, prisoners-of-war also became integrated with the Czech volunteers, the commanders of the front-line forces did not make any secret of their non-confidence. "Devil should brag about such relatives!" — was the opinion of a prominent Russian general. "The one who once committed treason, will repeat it again and again" They even suspected the Czechs of espionage. Finally, the position of the army gained overhand, and, for quite a long time, new Czech units have not been established. Masaryk tells it in his work "World Revolution" that, in the beginning, the movement of the Czech prisoners-of-war has been observed with a certain animosity in Italy, England, America, even in France. Quite clearly, these men had been very rarely motivated by idealistic reasons. In most cases, they have been influenced by pure selfishness, by cowardly fear for their own lives.

I remember very well, what feelings of contempt were aroused in us by such cases on the battle ground. On the occasion of the offensive in Galicia, in the autumn of 1916, our division (the 3. Finnish Rifle Division) became engaged

in heavy battle at the village of Lazaruvka at the Ziotalipa on the 9th of August. After long attacks and counter-attacks, we have occupied the village and took more than 2000 prisoners. At this point, a German Yaeger Battalion moved in, which had some Austro-Hungarian soldiers integrated in its ranks, and a fierce fighting began anew. The last attack took place before my eyes. Our 9th regiment subdued its adversaries and moved into their lines. Again, we took many prisoners, although the enemy offered a stubborn and heroic resistance. After the outcome of the struggle had been decided, our riflemen have escorted away the prisoners. All officers and soldiers made an extremely serious, tired, and dejected impression upon us. Suddenly, two Czech ensigns broke through the throngs of the prisoners, approaching us; one just fell over me, the other one wanted to kiss my hand. They were mumbling something of friendship, of their love for Russia, and of how they have disliked to fight against us. Obviously, these were all just plain lies. One could see in their faces the experienced panic, fear, and the joy over their survival. Spontaneously, I have shoved back these infamous cowards from myself...

However, it would be incorrect to believe that the Czech troops that have served in the Austro-Hungarian army would have surrendered only voluntarily and without struggle. Their behavior depended on the circumstance where they were posted to. For example, facing our division at the turn of the Strypa river near the village of Gajvoronka, there was a Czech regiment (as far as I can remember, the 88th regiment) that has fought very stubbornly in the winter of 1915-16. When our regiments crossed the Strypa in May after three days of fighting, and destroyed 30 lines of the barbed-wire entanglements with pyroxiline bombs, the Czechs managed to retreat in time so that we were unable to take any prisoners. During the same offensive, our division took the entire 10th Honved regiment prisoner at the village of Visnevchik, near the Strypa, although, as it was well known, the Hungarians were first class soldiers.

In those times, we had the impression that the reports about the voluntary surrender of the Czech troops are just fairy tales. It seems that it was the same game with double self-insurance: to fight bravely when their own forces were victorious, and, in the case of defeat, or in critical situations, to dress themselves in the cloak of Slavic friendship in order to avoid the hardships of captivity.

The Russian government has permitted only in the beginning of 1916 for the first time that the Czech battalion should be transformed into a Czech Yaeger regiment; however, the commanders' positions were filled with Russian officers and the language of the service remained also Russian. However, the atmosphere at Petersburg became more and more nervous in the following months. So did it happen then, in the summer of 1916, that new Czech units were authorized and the Czech regiment was developed into a brigade.

### **The Czechs are showing up**

Via its representatives in Moscow, the Czech National Council has assured the Czar of its loyalty on November 22, 1916. We have to keep it in mind that the Czech politicians who were abroad at this time have adhered to the task to create an independent Czech kingdom with a king chosen from a foreign dynasty, by which they have kept the House of the Romanovs in sight also. At this point, one should mention the observations by a Swiss scholar, Dr. Otto Hassinger, professor of geography at the university of Basel, which were published in his book as follows: ..."The declarations of loyalty to the Emperor have been received from the mayor of Prague regularly. The Narodny Listy wrote it in January 1917: "It is really admirable how many sided are the activities of professor Masaryk and how tirelessly

he is working on besmirching the honor of the Czech nation.. The enemies became convinced that the love of all Austrian peoples to the hereditary dynasty and to the fatherland is firm and unshakeable. They have recognized that all those who are stating something also in abroad, are Hers and frauds... We are definitely protesting that these men should talk on our behalf. The Czech people might pay dearly for the actions of these people. “ And then further: "...Representative Smeral, the then-leader of the Czech Social Democratic Party, has published the letter of the Czech Federation addressed to Prime Minister Clamm-Martiniz in which they are requesting an audience from Emperor Charles." They wished to submit their request to him to let himself crowned as Czech king: „We wish to assure the Emperor that we shall stand always by him and his successors, and that we shall adjust our demands always to the interests of the Habsburg dynasty and the empire, that we shall serve the king and the state always loyally, and that our complaints have never undermined our conviction that we shall satisfy the rightful demands of the Czech people after the for us victorious conclusion of the World War within the framework of the empire and under the reign of the Habsburgs." Signed by: Stanek, Smeral, Mastalka.

In the course of the World War, Slovak soldiers have fought bravely in the Austro-Hungarian army and the representatives of Slovak patriotic persuasion have delivered also patriotic addresses in the Hungarian parliament (so wrote Juriga on April 26,1915, and on December 19) and they have assured the Hungarian fatherland of their peopled readiness for sacrifice."

When, however, the revolution broke out at Petersburg in March, 1917, the Czech have soon recognized their spiritual affiliation to the new political direction, and they have changed their colors and became passionate republicans. From Miljukov's transitory government they have received the assurance already that they will be permitted to recruit the prisoners of war into an independent Czech

army. By the decision of their National Council, they have taken a loan of twenty million francs in August for the purposes of the army and the revolution. In October, General Duhonin<sup>1</sup> released an order, which has resolved the organization of a Czech army corps consisting of three army divisions.

### **The hour of reckoning has struck.**

The events followed with catastrophic velocity. The October revolution, the capture of power by the Bolsheviks... With the slogan of the immediate conclusion of the World War, the Bolsheviks have killed Duhonin in Mogilev. The Russian armed forces were dissolved. The Czech prisoners of war found themselves in a new situation.

After the March revolution, Masaryk took to Russia without delay. In his book "The World Revolution", he described his journey in detail. This book by Masaryk is the more dangerous for the uninformed reader because it was written by a man who has been known to be a scholar. In this book, however, truth and untruth are marching together hand in hand.

After his arrival to Russia, Masaryk has at once visited the leaders of the revolution who, according to his own admission, were spiritually close to him. Then, he put himself completely at the disposal of the French representatives in Russia. We find the following characteristic sentence in his book: "We (that is, the Czechoslovak division) were an independent army; however, we constituted a part of the French army; in financial matters, we were dependent on France and the Entente."

Masaryk spent almost an entire year in Russia. He visited Petrograd, Moscow, Kiev, and Vladivostok. He took

<sup>1</sup> Major General Nikolas Duhonin was the last chief of the general staff at the headquarters at Mogilev. He had this post to his death. Following the Bolshevik revolution on December 3, 1917, the Bolshevik commander-in-chief, Sub-lieutenant Krilenko ordered him captured and, on the same evening, the Bolshevik seamen clubbed him to death in a bestial way.

up contact with the authorities, but, as he stated proudly, he has rejected the offers of cooperation received from Generals Alexejev<sup>1</sup> and Kornilov<sup>2</sup>. These men have begun their patriotic activities in those times. Unfortunately, however, on a much broader, democratic basis than needed, inasmuch as they have emphasized the principle of "loyalty toward the Allies" almost at a higher degree than the loyalty toward the fatherland. Masaryk's ties to the leftist Russian camp became the more reinforced.

The Czechoslovak division collected its forces in the Ukraine in the fall of 1917. They have initiated negotiations with the Ukrainian government, but suddenly they have departed from this direction, and Masaryk concluded an agreement personally with Muravjev<sup>3</sup>, the Bolshevik commander-in-chief. During this time, some friendly relationship has developed also between the two men. Masaryk has permitted that Bolshevik agitators should penetrate the Czech regiments and, thus, the partial bolshevization of the Czechs became a fact.

Beside Muravjev, Masaryk has established closer personal contacts with the leaders of the Bolshevik revolution

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1 General Alexejev was the last chief-of-staff of Czar Nicholas II in Mogilev. As a soldier he played a prominent role in Russia. He was a friend of the Entente. He died in the winter of 1918 in southern Russia in the Voluntary Army.

2 General Kornilov is one of the most characteristic personalities of the war and of the revolution. He was wounded in Galicia in May, 1915, and became a prisoner-of-war. In 1916, he escaped from Hungary via Romania to Russia, where he served at first as an army corps commander then as army commander-in-chief. Following the March revolution, he stood at the head of the revolutionists right from the beginning, but he fought by all means against those who wanted to dissolve the army. In August, 1917, he got arrested by Kerenski. After the Bolshevik revolution, he managed to escape from captivity, and, together with his followers, he managed to get to the Don where, together with General Alexejev, they have organized the new White Russian army. He fell in the battle at Yekaterinodar in the Caucasus on April 13, 1918.

3 Muravjev, former Imperial police officer, filled the position of commander-in-chief in the Red Army of the Ukraine under the Bolsheviks. Some months later, he became suspected by the Bolsheviks; he was ordered to Kazan where a commissar beat him to death.

also. At the same time, the Czech National Council has admitted to its ranks the radical socialist elements from among the Czech prisoners-of-war. By this, the Czechoslovak army corps has contributed to the further developments of the Russian revolution also. What task they have wished to serve by this, we shall see later. In the course of the stay in Russia, from May 1917 to April 1918, Masaryk took the following measures: the Czechoslovak prisoners-of-war were renamed as "legionnaires". This name was first mentioned in Russia at that time. Then they have recommended to these legionnaires that they should work through all their means in the development of the new state without caring about moral prejudices. The Russian officers were removed from several commanding positions.

The efforts of the Czechs, at this point, were directed so that they should leave Russia and get to the western front in France. The shortest route to the sea toward France led through Archangelsk and Murmansk. As it is mentioned by Masaryk in his book, they had avoided this route because of the fear of the German submarines. So they have decided for the route through Russia to the Pacific Ocean to which they have obtained the permission of the Bolsheviks also. In the spring of 1918, the Czechoslovak army corps packed up and the whole transport was put on the great Siberian railroad from Penza to Vladivostok.

According to the peace treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the German and Austro-Hungarian governments demanded from the Soviets that the prisoners-of-war be disarmed and locked up in concentration camps. Actually, they should have been transported back to their homelands, not as legionnaires but as traitors and fugitives. In May 1918, the Bolsheviks, in fact, directed an ultimatum to the Czechoslovak army and demanded the transfer of the Russian weaponry.

The moral conditions among the Czech forces were extraordinarily saddening. In the wake of the Russian revolution, the Czech National Council has enlisted all

prisoners-of-war of their own nationality into the army, through which the Czech brigade grew into an army corps. The larger number, however, reduced the quality. Thus, the corps was filled with cowardly traitors and fugitives who broke their oaths.

The officer and commander positions were filled with Czech soldiers who were selected not on the basis of their service records, nor on the basis of their special qualities but on the basis of their readiness to recognize the National Council and to follow the revolutionary direction. The only officer was Cecek, insofar he served as a sublieutenant in the Austro-Hungarian army. Gajda was a druggist, by his military rank an army medic, Syrowy a common soldier, formerly a salesman.

Part of the Czech troops surrendered their arms, guns, and machine guns, to the Bolsheviks obediently. However, the Russian officers who by that time were still remaining with the staff and in some commanding positions, have collected the best Czechs around themselves and decided to reject the ultimatum and to keep their arms. They have realized that without arms they would be treated as play balls in the hands of the Soviet power, and have decided by their free will that they should break through toward the east.

The Czechs have fought a number of battles against the Red Army Major General .....,<sup>1</sup> the former chief of the

Russian General Staff at Petersburg, who spent the spring and the summer after the Bolshevik revolution at the Volga river, then as one of the most intimate collaborators of Koltchak, participated in the fight against the Reds. He narrates these times and makes the remark:<sup>2</sup> "In the spring

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<sup>1</sup> ..... Major General, former chief of the Russian General Staff at Petersburg,

and later a collaborator of Admiral Koltchak, expressed his wish, not to disclose his name. The reason for this, as in other cases also, is that the Czechs, now in power, do not refrain from personal persecutions and acts of revenge. But he has documents and is ready to publish them at the right time.

<sup>2</sup> "The Czech Argonauts in Siberia." Tokyo, 1921. Page 5.

of 1918, the great war was still not finished. How it would be concluded, nobody was able to foresee. Anyhow, Mirbach's doings in Moscow and the transport of foodstuffs from Russia to Germany have made our allies quite uneasy. “

The later ones were ready to support every movement against bolshevism. The revolt of the Czechs corresponded mostly to the French and British plans because the establishment of an eastern front in Russia could at least paralyze the reinforcement of the German front in the west. To initiate this local revolt, the Czechs were incited by French and English agitators. They supposed that the Czech revolt could become an initial action to the general revolt of the Russian population directed against bolshevism. The Czechs were supposed to create the center to facilitate the establishment of a new Russian military power, which naturally should have been an obedient tool to the French and the English.

“From the military point-of-view, the Czech revolt was a chain of small, meaningless clashes; surely, the Bolsheviki did not have at their disposal any military power in Siberia that would be worth to mention. Many cities were occupied by Russian officers and volunteer troops without any assistance, like Omsk, Irkutsk, and Celjabinsk. The Czechs, however, without having fired a single shot, made their entrance everywhere proudly and highly dignified, letting the population to greet them with great ovation and, without delay, started to impress the state property of Russia.

Those Czech news, that tell about the heroic military deeds of their compatriots, are only products of a very vivid imagination. The whole advance march has no military character, it is rather of the character of a punishing expedition. The losses of the Czechs in human life from Khazan to Vladivostok hardly deserve to be mentioned. “

This is the way the events of those times are told by another eyewitness. He was an officer and he lived in Khazan. He took part in the actions by the Czechs, which he, like many Russians in those times, admired, looking

at the Czechs in the first months of their appearance as the liberators from bolshevism, and fighters for the freedom of the Russian people.<sup>1</sup>

There followed easy victories, occupation of localities evacuated by the enemy, all in a march of glory, pursuits of unorganized hordes, etc. Easy, quick results, which could be achieved with playful ease, because the Bolsheviks did not have any regular troops in the entire Siberia. The improvised Red Guard, (armed with weapons that had to be tied with rope on their backs) which was composed of workers called together in great haste, was no true army at all.

Thus, the occupation of the cities without any defense progressed in a playful and joyous manner, and the heroes rested on their laurels. Soon, however, the picture has changed and matters took a turn to the worse. From European Russia, the regular Red Army set out on its march. Anyway, this was an army, and there was a European big power behind it — the former Russia. Behind their front line, a people of 150 millions was in silence. The Russian army to Siberia held the frontline at the Ural, but the Czech legions remained in the support zone only as long as the situation did not turn serious, then they left everything behind as soon as the end of the White Army, and of everything what belonged to it, came about.

I print a short extract of the report of a Russian frontline officer, W.K.E., who took part in the entire campaign in Siberia:

"While we have pursued the retreating enemy along the railroad line between Shadrinsk and Bogdanovitch, this was in July 1918, our forces were met a strong resistance at the station of Bogdanovitch. The platoon of Shadrinsk, where I have served as an adjutant, was directed to Grjasnsk to get in the back of the enemy's wing. After a fight of 24

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<sup>1</sup> Alexander Kotomkin, "On the Czechoslovak legionaries in Siberia in 1918-20." Recollections and documents. Paris, 1920. Pages 34-35.

hours, we have managed to push the enemy out of the place and to occupy two armored trains of the Reds. Soon after, we have met a troop of the Czech military forces that marched slowly toward Yekaterinburg. Our platoon's task was to turn quickly toward the north, and, therefore, we have left the armored trains temporarily with the Czechs. The certificates of transfer were signed by the Russian and Czech representatives. These armored trains were not returned by the Czechs; instead, they were kept by them as their own property. Several of our protestations with the Czech army command remained completely without results."

"The months of August and September of 1918 have brought particularly difficult fights for our platoon, which was then renamed as the 19th regiment of Petropavlov. At Irbit, the high ground of Samotcvet-Kordon, our troops have met extremely strong resistance. Colonel Smolin, our commander, requested the Czechs to hand over the armored trains, because we had only one which was only improvised by us, the protection of which was given only by piled up sandbags. The fight that lasted two days has caused us great losses and just one partial success. The Czech armed train did not come to our aid because it remained the whole time within the protected railroad line, and it did not want to follow our own makeshift armored train, although we dared to initiate an attack and managed to damage the armored train of the Bolsheviks. On this occasion, the Czechs did not fire a single shot.

After the encounter, the Czechs declared that they have to leave us. But prior to this, the commander of the Czech armored train came to us, with the request that we should certify in writing their participation in the fight. Colonel Smolin got nonplussed, because he really did not know what he should certify for the Czechs. Thus, he has requested that the Czech commander, whom he figured to be honest that he himself should draft the text. I took my seat at the typewriter and the Czech dictated the text. Among others, the following sentence remained in my

memory: '...The soldiers of the Czech armored train have fought like lions...' Colonel Smolin has read the finished paper and threw a wondering and questioning look at the Czech commander; he, however, in a challenging way, look back at him, without blinking an eye. Smolin just sighed in pain, signed the paper, handed it over to the Czechs, and without shaking hands with them, left the room. "

"Soon after that, the Czech armored train has left us, never to be seen again. Aside of this case, I have not had any more opportunity to get together with the Czechs. Only later did I hear, from the wounded of the faraway battles who came to us, the sarcastic remarks: 'While far and near the Russian fights the Russian, the Czechs are stealing the sugar'"

"Behind the Siberian army, there was, in fact, quite a colorful life. Speculations, usury, stealing and robbing. The soldiers who came to the frontline, could hardly stop telling how " the Czechs were stealing everything of the Russian military equipment what they could remove; in the cities, they have requisitioned the best homes, and, at the railroad stations, they occupied the best sets of railroad cars and locomotives. The insensitivity of 'General" Gajda caused great indignation; after the occupation of Yekaterinburg, he has not found another accommodation for himself and for his staff but the house of the industrialist Ipatjev, where, as is well known, the Czar's family was murdered a short time before. He ordered it to be restored to such a degree that most traces of the crime disappeared. "

One more testimony, in particular, by an eyewitness, a former prisoner-of-war, and a later historian of this period, army staff major Geza dell'Adami, from his work entitled "My escape from Siberia." "In the course of the military operations, the towns of Irkutsk, Omsk, Celjabinsk, Ufa, and Samara have been occupied by the White troops, in the beginning without any major sacrifices, because the Bolshevik garizon did not have any meaningful resources. It was only at the marching in of the troops that the Czechs

have never failed to be present! The occupation of all these cities meant a new victory for the Czechs and the world was resounding from these victories. "

And then: "After the fall of Khazan, behind the front-line of the self-sacrificing Russian armed forces, a chapter began that has really nothing similar in the history of the world. With expertly precision, the Czechs started the evacuation of the endangered Hinterland in eastern direction. They have declared every type of movable material and merchandise as spoils of war, and from the medical instruments to the collections of the library in Perm they have made away with everything. "

To be able to evaluate the future events properly, we have to visualize the desperate situation in which the Russian Empire was at that time already. During the three years of the war, Russia became dead tired, and she suffered grave blows by the domestic troubles that have lasted 14 months already. In the name of the "people," the Bolsheviks became the sole rulers of the empire. They have built their dominion of the state upon the completely demoralized hordes of seamen, reserve soldiers and convicts released from the prisons; they have used the most sinister instincts of the people for the annihilation of the so-called bourgeoisie.

In Russia, from the Dniester to the Pacific Ocean, honest civilian elements got organized, established social units and, secretly, prepared for a general uprising. They were hoping that, with weapons in their hands, they would be able to shake off the hateful yoke. There was no place or any small town, where there had not been an anti-Bolshevik committee. It was clear that those brave Russian officers who remained with the Czech corps could make themselves quickly understood by their former comrades, and yoke up the contacts with the secret organizations. In the interest of the common cause, they have decided that putting away all of their personal expectations, they will be very friendly toward the Czechs and they will help

them wherever they can. They were the officers and the Cosacks of the secret organizations who did the most services in the interest of the Czech army. Without Russian support, the Czech uprising had not been coming to any results. The Czechs did not know the country well enough and, in a short time, separated from each other and dispersed all over the country in small groups, they would have been destroyed by the Bolsheviks. All main actions of the Czechs were directed by Russian officers. To mention only as an example the names of Stepanov, Bogoslovski, and Usakov. The latter fell in the battle at Lake Baikal.

Everywhere where the matter did not involve fighting, the Russian fighter modestly remained in the background, and yielded the precedence to the Czechs. He was not envious when the people covered them with flowers and gifts and greeted them as their liberators.

I remember the terrible depression which took over during my captivity in Astrachan that lasted for several months. The Communists governed with unparalleled cruelty, especially after a Cosack uprising ended in failure. Those who were not slaughtered, languished in captivity, or, in constant fear, tried to hide away. The anti-Bolshevik league there shrank to a few dozen men; accordingly, there could not be any thought of some independent action. Then came the news about the victorious advance of the Czechs along the Siberian railroad. The Bolsheviks became very excited and their death-bearing fist tightened the grip even more around the throat of the suffering population of the city. If they had known what joy filled the hearts of these suffering people, how passionately they have been waiting for the never coming help of the Czechs! The blood-bath had to be discontinued finally!

This ardent hope of the people kept in captivity adorned with garlands the heads of the Czechs and they were elevated above everybody as liberators sent by God. This was a favorable opportunity to harvest cheaply both respect and honor. The Czech military leaders did take

advantage of this and the same happened on the part of the political leaders, most of all by Masaryk and Benes. This way they have created the legend of the Czech "Anabasis" in Siberia. The following documentary proofs will throw new lights upon the facts.

### **The "Anabasis" of the Czech legionaries**

In the summer of 1918, the Entente Powers were by far not sure at all whether the World War would be decided in their favor or not, — they were still fearful of defeat. Therefore, they have decided that they shall do everything to extort some advantage from Russia, which was involved in a struggle for life or death. The Czechs, after their successful advance along the Siberian railroad line, have received an order from Paris to stop at the Volga and to establish an eastern front there. This should have forced the Germans to direct their attention and military power not only toward the West but the East as well. Like ringing of the bells, resounded the call of the English, the French, and the Japanese all across Russia: "Be gathered around your Russian flags, arm yourselves, and drive out your enemies, the Germans, and their servants, the Bolsheviks! Not an inch of Russians territory should be lost, and nobody will touch the power of the Russian Empire. "

And Bessarabia? And Volhynia? And the border states?...

The eyes of the world were turned at that time toward the Urals. The new frontline started to take shape along the Volga river. The Russians and the Czechs had occupied Ufa, Busuluk, Samara, Sisran, Simbirsk, Shvalinsk, and Volsk, without any greater effort. On the 7th of August,

1918, they have reoccupied Kazan also. Wherever the White troops appeared the Reds took to flight. The elite force of the Reds, the so-called Revolutionary Guard, consisted of Latvians, Chinese, seamen, and convicts. They were fighting, in part, in the south, against the White Army that was established there, and, in part, in the central region of the Empire, against the insurgent peasants.

"The procedure of the Czechs against the enemy was extremely short and deliberate. The Germans and Hungarians who fell in to their hands, were executed without any further ado. The same fate was waiting for those Red soldiers also in whose pockets they found some sort of valuable item. "1

The representative of the Swedish Red Cross, Diding is right when mentioning in his work: "The behavior of the Czechs against their former comrades, against the prisoners-of-war, belongs to the gravest injustices and horrors of the history of the World War. My judgment is joined to the judgments of all Red Cross missions working in the Russian territory. "2

After the occupation of Kazan, Cecek, who was promoted from sublieutenant to brigadier general, was appointed to commander-in-chief of the Volga front, and Syrowy, the commander of the Czech army corps became army commander. It was not easy for the voluntary Russian troops to follow the orders of these uneducated Czech generals and leaders, and their self-discipline is the more admirable. However, the general enthusiasm about the liberation from the Bolshevik yoke was so great, that everybody who could contribute to the cause just in any way, did everything possible and overlooked a lot of things. Our intelligent people who were still not destroyed, sent their strong sons by the thousands to the White Army.

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1 "The Czech Argonauts in Siberia." Tokyo, 1921.

2 General Staff Major Geza dell'Adami: "My Escape from Siberia."

General, common soldier, student, and servant took their places, shoulder to shoulder in the ranks of the freedom fighters. Individual deeds of heroism were everyday occurrences; particularly, a young colonel of the General Staff, W. O. Kappel earned special distinction.<sup>1</sup> Wherever the situation was dangerous, he could be seen always, and he managed to harm the enemy all the time. His audacity could carry even the Czechs with himself many times, and it looked as if one victory had caused the other.

And, again, all the gratitude, all the enthusiasm and joy were thrown at the Czechs. They were moving into the Russian cities as their liberators; they were celebrated, they were taken up on the shoulders, and they were honored with gifts. They were given gifts, in the Russian fashion, from open hearts and with extravagance. The Czechs, who were, up to this time, quite meagerly provided for, enriched themselves, got filled up, and developed a taste for private possessions. From then on, the requisition of Russia state property became a matter of principle, which soon became extended upon the private property also, if it was worth to be transported away. At first, the Russian troops looked at it quite indifferently: "Just take whatever you can, but help us to liberate our fatherland from the Bolsheviks. "

Since the rearrangement of the Volga front, the Czech National Council paid great attention to it that the administrative positions in the liberated regions of the country be filled with people whose political conviction was close to that of Masaryk. Those people, like crows, descended along the Volga river. Who cared among us about

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<sup>1</sup> Colonel Vladimir Kappel, later promoted to general, was among the closest aids of Admiral Koltchak. He died of pneumonia what he contacted during the winter campaign in Siberia in 1919-20.

these Kerenskis and Tchernokoks!<sup>1</sup> They were slaves and obedient messenger boys of the Entente, and, because of that, they were held in high esteem in the eyes of the Czechs also.

By this time, the old Russian administrative system has been destroyed almost everywhere and new forms of self-government came into existence. So functioned in Samara, at the headquarters of Cecek, a halfway social-revolutionary, halfway Bolshevik combination as an administrative committee; in Uralsk and Orenburg a Cosack government; in Yekaterinburg a government of miners; in Omsk a Siberian committee; Chita a government under the direction of the Hetman Semionov, etc., even Karbin and Valdivostok had their completely independent administrations. To end this disorder, sometime an Imperial Council was called to session in Ufa for the end of August and in the early part of September for the purpose of the establishment of a united government. Not only the representatives of all local administrative units appeared there but also the emissaries of the political parties. The votes differed. Although the monarchists have not been admitted to the negotiations, the nationalists managed to get the majority of the votes; besides, it was an important momentum that the army, with its voluntary troops, stood behind the nationalists.

The Czechs have intervened in the political affairs of Russia the first time on this occasion. Unexpectedly, an emissary of the Czechoslovak army, Dr. Pavlu Bogdan appeared at the session, accompanied by members of the Czech National Council. He declared that, in case a unified Russian government would not be formed without delay,

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<sup>1</sup> Kerenski and Cernov belonged to the leaders of the Socialrevolutionary Party (Marxists). They were the holders of the state power from the March 1917 revolution till the Bolshevik upheaval. They were working on the "deepening of the revolution," and they have served the Entente obediently. Both are still supported by the Czechs.

the Czechs would leave the frontline. Also, they would recognize as a legally valid government the one which would be formed of the Social-revolutionary Committee of Samara belonging to the party of Kerenski and Cernov.

Every Russian was clear about it that this means tyranny, and that there is no reason at all to admit a party to power that has brought the country (already in Kerenski's time) into a civil war, whose rule has ended in fiasco, and which became an obedient servant of foreign interests. However, the provocative declaration by the Czech Pavlu still did not find the proper rejection. The majority was still not closely organized and did not yet feel enough strength and inner courage to show the door to the megalomaniac Czechs. The population, which was kept in fear by the terroristic, bloody deeds of the revolution and the Bolsheviks, hung on tenaciously to the idea that the support by the Czechs is needed under any circumstances. Finally, as a united government, a directorate has been elected,<sup>1</sup> which consisted of five members, and which was headed by Avksentyev, a friend and party loyalist of Kerenski, with a majority of Social revolutionaries.

Thus, the government was formed in the spirit of the Czechs. Hence, their first advance was concluded in an easy way and without any danger. In exchange for that, they should have taken over the defense of the eastern front with their full capacity, and not to shrink back from sacrifices either. Instead, they have started their slow retreat.

Since the occupation of Kazan, the Bolsheviks began to realize that they have to calculate with the possibility of a national uprising seriously. They have made a strong effort to reoccupy this city. Kazan was not only an important strategical point for them but also the entrance to the food chamber that they needed particularly since the occupation of the Ukraine by the Germans. Correspondingly, the Soviet

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<sup>1</sup> Under the directorate belonged the administrative organ, the ministerial council, in which Koltchak was the minister of defense and of the navy.

government has thrown its best troops, headed by the Latvians, into the battle for Kazan.

The defense of Kazan was entrusted with an old-time soldier, the Czech Colonel Schwez. He was of great influence on the Czechs who, in fact, have fought under his leadership persistently for a few days against the Bolsheviks. However, their lines, accustomed to easy victories, became soon shaky and their fighting mood diminished from day to day. Colonel Kappel has tried to come to their aid /by attacking the enemy in their back. At this time, in the most critical moment, the Czechs decided in a political gathering of theirs that they do not any more obey their commander, Schwez, and they declared, in a tone that left no room for negotiations, that they are not going to hold the lines any more.

The situation of the Russian troops became extremely difficult. Only by the gravest losses could they be pulled back by the extraordinarily experienced and daring Colonel Kappel. The troops were saved but not Kazan. The Czechs have left the Kazan area secretly, without having informed anybody about their intention. On the 9th of September, the city fell into the possession of the Bolsheviks again. "The defense of the city of Kazan," as it was written by an eyewitness, "was the swan song of the Czech advance." <sup>1</sup>

After another two days, Simbirsk was given up also, then Volsk, Chvalinsk, and Sisran followed in the same way. The Czechs have left their positions, without having waited for the attacks by the Reds, that is, they have not continued the fight at all. But they were still loyal to their principle, that whatever they could get their hands on, they have taken away with themselves. At this point, it has to be taken into consideration that at that time, from the years of 1916 and 1917, enormous stockpiles were still stored for the fighting forces along the Volga river.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Czech Argonauts in Siberia", page 9.

"The Czechs, having all their trains loaded with their loot, started off toward the east. After them, like an avalanche, the unfortunate mass of the refugees made a rush from the Volga region. Here too, the Russian army remained faithful to its task and as a rearguard covered the retreat of the Czechs. The barefooted, poorly dressed Russian soldiers, robbed of all warm clothing, have viewed with great indignation the Czechs, passing by in their new boots and impeccable uniforms. This has sown the seeds of the alienation, from which later hatred and dissension arouse." This is the subject<sup>1</sup> of the report of one of the eyewitnesses of those days, Major General ..... the former chief of the general staff.

Similarly, from the same time, an eyewitness from Kazan, who later participated in the retreat to the Pacific Ocean, and who was an admirer of the Czechs and otherwise a great fan of Slavs, and he never kept that as a secret, provides the following characteristic picture of the procedures of the Czechs:<sup>2</sup>

"In this time, the idea of the brotherly union appeared only once (in the battle around Kazan) in its clear, symbolic light; but later, in the fog of demoralization that took over the Czech legions when they rushed back from the shores of the Volga, it disappeared. When they were approached for support, their leaders responded with a coolness bordering on cynicism: 'We are not getting mixed up with Russian affairs. Our policy is — the railroad line!'"

Yes, there was no end to the lines of the refugees who were following the Czechs from the Volga: the elderly, women, children, etc. They were from the same population that just a few weeks ago, showered flowers and gifts on the Czech troops. Now fleeing from their familiar places without any assistance and looking into a questionable

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<sup>1</sup> See page 9 of the work quoted above.

<sup>2</sup> Alexander Kotomkin: "On the Czechoslovak legionnaires in Siberia 1918-1920." Recollections and documents. Page 11.

future, they were very much embittered. They could not stay at home because the Bolsheviks have slaughtered whole populations of towns which have rushed to the aid of the Czechs or have shown any sign of sympathy toward them.

The fleeing hundreds of thousands of the small towns and villages which were handed over by the Czechs to the tribunals of the Cheka, were driven by fear and shock. The question arose rightly: had it not been better if the Czechs had not come at all?

Anyhow, it would have been better for the Russians if they would have perfected their movement against the Bolsheviks more profoundly and with greater coolness. The Western Powers wanted to have quick action to exert pressure from the rear as soon as possible, so that the Germans would not be able to march with their full power on the western front. At this point, the intents of the Russians and of the Western Powers parted. The whole advance was done too early, it blocked the secret preparations by the nationalist organizations and thwarted the concentration of their forces. On the fences and walls of the cities and railroad stations, were still there the colorful broadsides of the Czechs that they have directed at the Russian population. All these proclamations began as follows: "Russian Brethren!...Our tormented Brothers and Sisters!...The Czech Committee calls you up, the inhabitants of the Volga and the Urals, to fight your enemy, the Bolsheviks!..." In a varied tone, they have promised to fight to the victorious end, to the last drop of their blood... And instead of all these: the surrender of the positions without any fight, the insubordination, the treason against the Russian officers and the voluntary forces, and the cowardly flight of the healthy, well-fed Czech legionaries. There was no loss of the Czech blood, but the blood of the Russians was flowing like water in the cellars of the Cheka. Countless numbers of women were raped and tortured to death. Curses, horrible curses were thrown by the population of the Volga after the Czechs...

The mood of the Czech army itself sank to point zero. Stealing and desertion of the flag were accepted matters to which the leaders themselves served as good examples. Adventurers, dark characters were many in those days, followers of the most radical left wing. To stay in the favor of their soldiers, they did not shrink back even from the worst demagoguery. It is their fault that innocent Russian blood was poured in streams. The leaders of the Czech Committee at that time were Pavlu, Girska, Patejdel, Medek and Blagos, the leading spirit of the entire thing was the chosen revolutionary hero: Thomas Masaryk.<sup>1</sup>

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After an exhausting journey and among eternal dangers to our lives, we managed, with my wife, to leave Astrachan secretly, and to catch up with the White Army. We went across the Volga in a boat, then on horseback, escorted by a Khirgiz guide, through the steppes around the Caspian Sea, via Uralsk, Busuluk, and Samara; we traveled more than 500 kilometers, before we arrived to Ufa in the second half of September.

I have met the Czech legionnaires at first near the Volga. I did not imagine that I shall see before me a cowardly horde, the characteristics of which would include desertion of the flag, treason, and stealing. During my long and painful stay behind the prison walls of the Bolsheviks, I was accustomed, like the other Russians, to think only well of the Czechs, and I was convinced of their heroism as well as of their good intention of helping us in our struggle against the terror in Russia. Anyhow, even then, as I can recall, their uncertain look, their self-importance, as well as the lack of their military education appeared to be very striking. Somehow it looked as if a troop of livery servants, dressed in some sort of military uniform, had passed in front of me...

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<sup>1</sup> T. S. Masaryk: "The World Revolution." Page 192.

However, the news that the Czechs did not want to fight any longer surprised me very much in spite of this. "What? Soldiers do not want to follow orders any more? Is there no obedience any more? Where is the military court?" — "God forbid!" — was the answer, — "Such strong measures cannot be used in this system! And, besides, the Czechs are under the special protection of the Allies!"

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As we have mentioned already, Dr. Pavlu, in the name of the Czech National Council, has forced a Social-revolutionary government on the Russians. The Russians were quite lenient and have accepted it. Then followed the flight-type retreat of the Czechs from the Volga region without any fight. The temporary directorate itself had thought it to be necessary to appeal to the sense of duty of the Czechs. When it did not help at all, it tried to exert some pressure on the faithless friends through England and France. But this turned out to be their own undoing because the dagger was turned quickly against them. The Czechs have warded off the blow, inasmuch as they went over immediately to the radical socialist camp, the leader of which was then a very sinister gentleman named Cernov. Cernov has tried to incite the population of Siberia against the directorate by any means, accusing them of being counterrevolutionaries, that is, of monarchist orientation. But the Directorate continued to appear very submissive toward the Czechs, and went so far that it handed over the supreme command at the Ural front to the Czech General Jan Syrový,<sup>1</sup> although there were only Russians fighting there. Thus, with complete naivete, they were still clinging to the Czech help.

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<sup>1</sup> Cecek, who was commander on the Volga front earlier, returned to the command of the Czech infantry division after the retreat from the Volga.

After the Directorate have humbled itself so low, the Czech Syrový did not refrain from taking away the right of decision over the army from the same Directorate. He declared that his army is not going to fight but he will wait for the arrival of the French General Janin, and will follow his directives.

At the end of October, General Knox, the English representative arrived to Omsk. I have ceased to have any hopes in the behavior of the directorate. This way there was no possibility to help our fatherland! I have decided to go to Vladivostok, where I would create a new army out of really patriotic men, with the help of which I would, first of all, disarm the unmanageable Czech hordes. Prior to my departure, I have inspected all anti-Bolshevik fighting lines, mostly in the company of General Knox. Repeatedly, he expressed his righteous indignation about the behavior of the Czechs. In those times, they have sunk low even in their appearance; they became a dirty lot. One could see them everywhere as they were roaming around without any distinction of rank in messy, unbuttoned uniforms, uncombed, with an agitated expression in their faces, with their caps pulled down to their necks, with their hands in their pockets. They were standing around in small groups, because they did not dare to leave their waggons alone. They were staring at you impertinently and were discussing politics.

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Here we are publishing a description by a Russian who was very close to the Czechs in those times:<sup>1</sup>

"So, the Czech army has left the front, and like a long snake, as they themselves have named it, started off across Siberia, evacuating all the places they have occupied some time ago with such a great fanfare!"

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<sup>1</sup> A. Kotomkin: "About the Czechoslovak Legionnaires in Siberia, 1918-1929." Recollections and Documents. Pages 36., 37.

"The legionnaires, thus, have begun the unproductive life in the railroad cars held up at the various stations of the Siberian railroad lines. "

"At the railroad stations in Siberia one could observe a very characteristic picture during the entire year of 1919: almost everywhere, on the dead-end tracks and in the break-yards, there were surplus waggons with the following inscription: 'forty people — eight horses.' The beatable cattle waggons were excellently equipped with stoves and windows, and the outer walls were decorated with paintings and pictures made of birch barks. Between the live-in waggons, there were rows of transports heavily loaded with merchandise, covered with canvasses that were soaked with tar. Not only in the trains but also in the cities, barracks, military stations and colonies, the Czechs were settled safely. Their supply units stretched along the main transportation lines from the Urals to Vladivostok. It has to be mentioned here that the Czech army corps has grown unbelievably big, to more than fifty thousand men."

I have met Mr. Syrowy at Celyabinsk, in the saloon coach of General Knox. He was a short man; heavy, ill-groomed, not much above thirty years. In his common, beefy face, one eye was blinking, the other one was covered by a black band, by which condition he appeared in the eyes of the Czechs as their Hussite leader, Jan Zizka. His behavior was more than enforced calmness, so that it could be observed how much he has tried to cover up for his inner uncertainty and for the lack of proper education in his childhood. Evidently, he did not feel well in the unaccustomed environment. My soul still hurts and I feel

<sup>1</sup> The Russian major general, M. Dieterichs, was the commander of the Russian brigade in Saloniki in 1916, and became later, in Mogilev, the closest cooperator of General Duhonin. After Duhonin's murder, Dieterichs reported to the Czechs in Kiev. Masaryk appointed him chief of the general staff. Although Dieterichs was of German origin, he was an outright Panslavist and a loyal operative of the Entente.

ashamed to recall the scene how the old Russian general Dieterichs<sup>1</sup> stood erect in his Czech uniform, behind this upstart. Dieterichs was an extremely outstanding member of the general staff but an incorrigible Slavophile. Dieterichs provided all what was requested of Syrovy, and, thus, through his knowledge, he secured certain importance for his uneducated boss. Because of Dieterich's prestige, many thing which could have gone wrong, did not happen.

General Knox tried to induce the Czechs to hand over the army to him and get them participating in the fight. Everything was in vain! The Czechs, armed up to their ears, kept standing behind the fighting lines and declared once and for all that they do not wish to hear of fighting any more. The positions which they evacuated were occupied by the new units of the White Army, who have finally managed to ward off all attacks of the Bolsheviks.

There was only one man among the fifty thousand Czechs who could not bear the shame he felt about the behavior of his compatriots, and he was Colonel Schwez, the leader of the action at Kazan. He was the one who could discipline the men of his regiment, the longest time but, in the end, they have denied obedience even to him. Once more, he called together his soldiers, delivered to them an encouraging speech and begged them to come to their senses, not to bring shame upon their nation. It did not help, however, the soldiers left the line of fighting. After that, the colonel returned to his railroad cabin and shot himself.

This brave fighter was buried right at the time when I was in Celyabinsk. It was a sad, murky autumn day, and the rain came down drizzling from the skies. At the grave of the dead Schwez, Czech politicians delivered self-important speeches and shed crocodile tears.

They did not know that, with Colonel Schwez, they have buried also their short-lived glory, and that actually they were his murderers.

The efforts of the Directorate and of the Allies did not help at all. The Czechs could not be moved to a better understanding. Already by October, they have pulled back to the very last man, behind the fighting line. This fact has been proved by several sources. Therefore it is not true what the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs is stating:1

"The collapse of Koltchak on November 18, 1918, has broken up Russia. Because they (the Czechs) did 'not wish to take over the responsibility for the developments in the domestic policy, they slowly left the front at the Volga and, according to their tasks, kept only the railroad lines in their hands. By the end of December, the final retreat of the Czechs from the Volga region has been concluded. "

Major General ..... writes about this time as follows:2

"Behind the backs of the fighters, the Czechs made themselves very comfortable, and confiscated, as their spoils of war, so many trains, that the transport of ammunition to the battle field got stopped. There were many Czech regiments in Celyabinsk and Yekaterinburg. The men were alert rested and well fed. At that time, the Czech National Council has reached a decision about how the Czech troops could evacuate Siberia in the best way. This has to be emphasized, especially because they had latter the nerve to trumpet to the world that they were reluctant to continue the fight because they did not sympathize with Admiral Koltchak."

Behind the frontline, the stolen goods have been guarded by them with double vigilance. But let us have here a list of the goods what they have planned to take out with themselves:3

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1 E. Benes: "The uprising of nations." Page 552.

2 "The Czech argonauts in Siberia." Page 11.

3 "Djelo Rossii." Tokyo, 1920. Page 12.

"The loot of the Czechs was eye-catching not only because of their mass but also for their variety. It did really consist of everything: uniform stuffs in immeasurable quantity, arms, ammunitions, textiles, food stuffs, shoes, metals, raw materials, valuable machinery and machine parts, breeding animals, etc. They have robbed medical supplies alone to the tune of 3 million gold rubels, caoutchouch and rubber wares up to 40 millions, and copper from the mines of Tjumens in incalculable quantities. They were not ashamed to confiscate the library and the laboratory of the university of Perm either. The full extent of their robbery cannot be determined ever. Modestly calculated, it represented a war levy of several hundreds of millions of gold rubels imposed on Russia, which exceeded several times the war reparations demanded by the Germans from the French in 1871. Part of the loot was sold by the Czechs right there on the spot for very high prices, the rest was stored in trains for the purpose to be transported back home. "

The Czechs took possession, in addition to a large number of locomotives, of some twenty thousand railroad waggons, so that every two Czechs got a waggon. The transportation of the army did not need such a quantity of waggons. All this served the transportation of the loot only.

We, Russian officers, have seen it very clearly already that the only solution would have been to have short shrift with these demoralized legions. However, two considerations stopped us in this matter. First of all, our troops were too weak at that time to take up the fight against foreign and domestic enemies simultaneously; the Directorate was so far oriented to the left that its president, Avksentjev, was suspected of cooperation with the half-Bolshevik Cernov. This despicable Directorate was in fear of the Czechs and was always ready to exert pressure on the nationalist parties on their behalf.

The population in Siberia, as well as the standing army, have hated the Czechs and this hatred increased each day. A little conflict would have been enough to get the Czechs slaughtered. The behavior of the Czechs in those times can be characterized also by the following story. When, in the beginning of November, 1918, Admiral Koltchak, minister of defense and of the navy, arrived with his train to Yekaterinburg to get a picture of the situation at the front, a group of Czech soldiers heaped loud insults on the escort of the admiral. The Czech officers who overheard it, not only did not forbid this behavior but they have incited them even more. One of the officers then, started out to approach the train of the admiral, although the entry there was off limits. The Russian guard formally stopped him in his way. Thereupon, the Czech upbraided the guard and lifted his hand to hit him, after which the soldier properly used his rifle and mortally wounded him.

All foreigners were outraged at the behavior of the Czech but his compatriots took his side. The dead man was given a ceremonial burial, accompanied by anti-Russian demonstrations, and, even at his grave, they gave hateful speeches. It was painful to see, how our plans and enterprising spirit became frustrated, because we kept among us a sickly, rotten, alien body, which we were not able to remove.

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As time passed, the situation became so critical that all parties, except the half-Bolshevik radical Marxist left, got together and reached the agreement to elect a common chief, to make a more resolute direction possible. We have put our fate and the future of Russia in the hands of Admiral A. W. Koltchak.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Admiral Alexander Koltchak was born in Petersburg in 1873, and became a navy officer in 1894. He participated in two scientific expeditions, in 1900-1902, and in 1908-1910, in the Arctic Sea. For his scientific research

First of all, Koltchak was a patriot, in addition to being talented wise, educated, well traveled, and an excellent military leader. His personality before all those who knew him is still extremely distinct. To stand up for justice — he held it for a necessity of life. He has respected the diligence, the love of orderliness, and the organizational talent of the German people, that is, he was not filled with prejudices against Germany, which has been enough for the French to regard him and his collaborators as Germanophiles. Not in the least this was the reason why he was an eyesore for the Czechs. Had he not become a victim of Czech treason together with his army, the history of Russia would have taken a different turn, quite sincerely.

Admiral Koltchak has seen that the Czechs cannot stay in Siberia any longer but he did not possess the necessary forces to remove them. To all this came the circumstances that Koltchak was an unbelievably good man. But, apparently, his willpower has been weakened by the revolution. He could be sanguine but he gave in easily. When he was elected as a leader with full trust, he accepted the position led by unselfishness and by a sense of duty toward the fatherland as a severe, hard pressing task.

Koltchak's installation as governor happened in the night of the 18th of November, 1818, in Omsk, and it did not meet any opposition. The members of the directorate were arrested and expelled from Russia. Nobody contradicted this step in Siberia. Alone and exclusively, the Czechs have organized an uprising against the new govern-

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he was awarded the great gold medal. The revolution found him in the position as commandant of the Black Sea Fleet. Admiral Koltchak enjoyed high repute with the seamen, and that made the slowdown of the deterioration of the fleet possible. When, finally, the seamen demanded the unarming of all officers, Koltchak threw his golden sword to the sea, and left for Petersburg. Soon after that, the temporary government has sent him to the United States with a special mission. From there, he returned in 1918 to the Far East, and, before long, he was at the head of the entire Russian liberation movement.

ment, but they did not have the courage to follow through with it. They were grumbling their dissatisfaction, congregated in public meetings, and addressed various proclamations to the population of Siberia. When an officer was sent to them to arrest the gang leaders, the Czechs sheltered them and then helped them to get over to the Bolsheviks.

At that time came Gajda, then Czech division commander, he wrote officially to Admiral Koltchak and assured him of his sympathy, loyalty, and reliability. He was familiar with the new frame of mind among the Russian officers and soldiery, and he has preferred to play with new cards and at the same time, to push his own person in the foreground versus Syrový. Gajda and Syrový were not on good terms. The honest Admiral Koltchak was convinced of the sincerity of Gajda, and he rewarded the ambitious Czech on every occasion with his favor, in fact, even with the rank of a Russian general. I have taken note of my impression of this man who was given such a fateful role in connection with Russia: "Young, long, mask-like face, with colorless, hard eyes, betrayed a definite willpower, bent to commit robbery. Two deep, long, defiant shadows around the mouth. A Russian general" uniform without shoulder distinctions, which he, to please the Czech politicians, ordered to have removed. His conversational style was scarcely audible, measured, almost affectionate, but with a defiant accentuation and an unpleasant Czech pronunciation. He spoke in short, ragged sentences, imitating the heroic war leader." I met him in November 1918 in a small military group in Yekaterinburg, where he expressed the following opinion: "At the present, the Russian people do not need a parliamentary system. I became convinced of that when I was traveling on two occasions through Russia and Siberia; everybody got tired of the revolution and everybody just wants peace and order. In my opinion, Russia needs only the Czarist system, namely a good,

constitutional, democratic Czarist government However, it is still too early for that, and a military dictatorship is the most proper form at the present I would support it with my regiments if a Russian general would lend himself to take the power into his own hands. “

He could not live up to his promise, and he had to lead his division behind the fight line. There, an open struggle broke out between him and Syrový, the cause of which can be found in their personal interests and immeasurable ambitions. Gajda wanted to play first violin under any circumstances, while Syrový wanted to become a new Zizka.

Generally speaking, the Admiral did not have a very appreciative opinion of the Czechs, and I have seen him smiling in a contemptuous way when the Czechs were called thieves, cowards, and deserters. Unfortunately, Koltchak did not consent to the suggestion of his closest associates who wished to disarm the Czech regiments, because he wished to avoid any further confrontations with the allies.

In the second half of November, General Janin<sup>1</sup> and the Slovak Stefanik,<sup>2</sup> the first minister of defense in the Czechoslovak government came to Vladivostok. Stefanik was an exception, insofar as he was of the same type as Colonel Schwez. In his book, Benes names him an idealist. When Stefanik has seen what the Czechs are doing, he became very irate. He regarded it as his duty

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1 The French Major General Janin was living in Russia for a long time already before the war, and he used to talk gladly about his great love for Russia. He was the French military attache at the Russian general headquarters. When it was decided in Paris, that they should use Russia once again against the Central Powers, they sent Janin to Siberia and appointed him commanding general of all "allied" forces there.

2 Stefanik participated as associate of Masaryk and Benes in the conspiracy against Austro-Hungary abroad. He was sent from Paris together with General Janin to Siberia. When Stefanik, as the minister of defense of Czechoslovakia arrived home by airplane; as he was already over Czech territory, his airplane, in an up-to-now undetected way, crashed in a hail of Czech bullets and Stefanik died on the spot.

to dissolve the Czech National Council without delay, to force the Czech army to accept discipline, and to put them, in fact, under the supreme command of General Janin. At this point, however, he met resistance from all quarters. The Czech officers as well as the politicians, but most of all the Czech military spirit, turned against him. Stefanik had to return to Prague without having achieved anything.

Before his departure, he did not make any secret of his opinion before us: because of the shame and infamy, that has been put by the legionaries right on the first pages of the Czechoslovak history, he feels deeply embittered.

Janin remained in Siberia but the Czechs belonged under his command only in name. Janin was unreliable and had no willpower. He received very foggy instructions, and he has played a twofaced game right from the beginning. To all appearances, he bowed to Admiral Koltchak and assured him of his sympathy and devotion, and the Russian army of his compassion, good will, and his readiness to help. Behind our backs, however, he approved the excesses of the Czechs, and we had reason to believe that he even incited them.

With Janin's arrival, the so-called Anabasis of the Czechs has been completed. They have demanded from the Allies with increasing force that they should be brought back to their fatherland. As a fact, the war against the Central Powers came to an end, and their new state, Czechoslovakia, was born at Versailles.

General Koltchak and his officers have supported the wish of the Czechs all the more because the presence of this fifty thousand army, which was armed but demoralized, and, besides, hostile in its feelings toward Russia, constituted a constant danger and their departure could have been only a salvation. However, the Allies did not wish to fulfill the request of the Czechs and, thus, they have remained in Siberia in the future too.

## **The treason of the Czechs is prepared**

Without any fertilization, the land of the steppe that reaches out farther than the eye can reach, for many thousands of kilometers, brings harvests of immense quantity from year to year. To the north, there are endless, vast, virgin forests, one or the other of which still has not been touched by human foot. The region itself is many times bigger than Western Europe. Southward of the steppes, with an interesting variety, there are powerful mountain ranges, on the heights and precipices of which human voices could be heard very rarely. From the mysterious womb of these snow-covered mountain giants, spring mighty streams, that carry in their beds their inexhaustible water masses slowly toward the north.

These fabulous forests are named the taiga. They are hiding all sort of wild animals and precious furred animals in quantities unimaginable for Europe. The rivers are rich in fish and in their sandy bottom gold sparkles. If they would open the still untouched mountains, they would find unheard-of riches of minerals, precious stones, oil, and coal. This land, named Siberia, is extremely rich and blessed with valuable things in every respect....

The winter in Siberia is very long, from the beginning of November to the end of March, and it is very hard. Siberia is sleeping for five months under the thick snow cover, and, around Christmas, the thermometer slides 30 degrees below zero (Celsius). But how clean and full of ozone is the air! What an original, colorful illumination! And what hunting excursions! In the summer, the heat in Siberia is equal to that in Southern Europe, and the most beautiful wheat gets ripe also.

The villages in Siberia are at circa thirty kilometers from each other. The population is very healthy, youthful and steadfast. The people, with their big, steel-gray eyes from under their slightly contracted brows, are looking at each other. Their willpower and honesty

can be trusted by everybody. Family life is under the influence of a patriarchal order. Morals and customs are mostly clean and simple as nature itself. The great sense of hospitality and of helping each other are such characteristics of the Siberian that not even the revolution was capable to destroy them or to loosen up the family traditions. In their huts and houses, there are centuries' old icons hanging from the ceilings. Then the portraits of the last four of the czars. As simple as the men are their daily occupations also: agricultural works and fishing in the summer, and hunting in the Tajga in the winter occupy the lives of the men in Siberia. Such is our Siberia! Place and livelihood could be found by hundreds of times more people there how many have settled down.

### **The tragedy of Russia was enacted in this land... The legionnaires!**

. From the autumn of 1918, the Czechs have withdrawn more and more into the interior of the country, to be able to settle down conveniently among the unarmed population, far away from all danger, and to wait for their transportation across the ocean.

The entire winter of 1918/1919 was spent with the internal migrations of the Czechs and the continuous negotiations between them and Janin, because they wanted to stay in the richest cities of Siberia under any circumstances. One could see them everywhere as they were loafing about arrogantly and sluggishly in the streets. But never empty handed! They were always carrying something', in bundles or paper packages. In the cities, they were dressed well, one could say, in a cocky way, and they would never forget their dress boots and gloves. While their day were spent in doing nothingness, and they themselves had plenty of everything, our army had done its duty and, at the same time, remained exposed to the greatest hardships.

A large percentage of the Czechs became infected

with the worst venereal diseases. These disgusting sick people have virtually overran all city hospitals. I had a very unpleasant meeting with the Czechs, namely, in the island called "Russky Ostrov near Vladivostok. I headed a military school that had circa 1500 students, officers and soldiers alike. We were working feverishly, to produce new, impeccably trained troops. It was a real joy to see how morally destroyed men became again soldiers with the time, soldiers who could march in the streets in complete discipline. A couple of kilometers from the headquarters of my officers' battalion there was a big hospital, built in the times before the war. It was crowded with this type of sick Czechs. They came over to us quite often and observed our exercises with contemptuous smiles; in fact, they have made some impertinent, taunting remarks, for which our men have beaten them up quite thoroughly. At the end, I have prohibited the disturbers of the peace from entering our area.

As long as the White Army held the frontline at the Urals, the Czechs were loafing in the supply services and profiteering. They did not speculate only with stolen goods but they have imported there merchandise from the Far East. To give some real momentum to this trade, they have, in an unconscionable way, requisitioned the railroad also, although it was hardly adequate for the transportation of the things most urgently needed by the population, particularly for the transportation of the multitude of the refugees from the Volga region.

The fifty thousand Czechs have monopolized the right of disposal over circa one third of the transportation facilities to themselves, which represented, per person and month, several metric centners of transported goods. Naturally, only a small part of these goods served the provisioning of the legionnaires.

Therefore later, after the conclusion of the war, Siberia was suffering very much because of the shortage

of goods. However, the Czechs have not stopped at this but, in exchange for large sums of money, they transferred the right of sale of entire carloads, which helped some slick operators to achieve big profits.

This fact was perverted by Benes, the skilled controller of Czech foreign policy propaganda, as follows:

"The scientific, financial and cultural works of our Siberian army deserve particular recognition. I think, this is the peculiar activity in which the genius of our race is the best demonstrated. Among the ranks of our troops soon strong personalities turned up, who understood how to organize the work, how to lead it, and who could be understood and supported by the simple soldiers also. "

But let us follow up on the path of the further actions of the Czech "genius." In the winter of 1919, there were court trials of some Czech leaders who were caught red-handed in some dealings involving Russian military property. The trials, however, were suppressed because the foreign missions did not wish to know about anything. And Janin was a bird of the same feather with the Czechs. Unfortunately, there were also some Russians, Masaryk's friends, who, while they were flattering Koltchak, secretly aided the Czechs. But the army and the population of Siberia were still waiting coolly for the hour when these heroes would leave the country.

Finally, Koltchak has lost his patience also and decided to make an end with the manipulations of the Czechs. His intention was that, prior to the embarkation of the Czechs in the port of Vladivostok, he would subject the Czechs to the checking of their packages.

They would constitute a searching commission by inclusion of the representatives of the Entente. The results of this investigation could not have been denied

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1 Edward Benes: "The Uprising of Nations."

and the exposure of the thieves could have grown into a scandalous event. However, the Czechs managed to learn about the intention of Koltchak. To hamper this plan, their leaders decided to commit an open treason. It was clear before them: the more power is aggregated with the government, the more sincerely and the faster the day of reckoning will come. They knew that they have no time to loose. This is how an agreement between the Czech National Council and the social-revolutionists who remained in Siberia, came about.

The administration of the consumers' cooperatives which represented a basic life necessity, was right from the beginning, in the hands of these social-revolutionists. The conspiracy was pulled by invisible strings from Moscow. They have agreed that, what has been otherwise a plan devised by Masaryk in Kiev in 1917/1918, they will play the governing power into the hands of the social-revolutionists. According to the new agreement, the Czechs should do their utmost to break Koltchak's power and to help the social-revolutionists to power. For this, the right of the Czechs was guaranteed to take their stolen goods with themselves. Naturally, this agreement remained secret, although we have suspected it, but, at that time, we still did not have any proofs in our hands. Later events, however, had thrown light upon everything. What has brought together the Czechs and the social-revolutionaries, is easily recognizable. It was written by Benes in his book referred to above:<sup>1</sup>

"During my stay in Paris, I got among the company of the revolutionaries from the times of 1905, who made really great impression on me. In 1906 and 1907, I moved about in the company of these revolutionaries, I was member of their societies, visited their free university classes, and came together regularly with the revolutionary

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<sup>1</sup> E. Benes, "The Uprising of Nations."

students, teachers, and journalists. I began to study Russia and her classical and revolutionary literatures. Upon my return to Prague, I have remained in further contacts with the Russian revolutionaries living there. “

“My stay in Paris brought me together with the followers of the March 17 revolution also. Their destructive work has just begun in Russia. “ The Czechs and the social-revolutionaries have feared a German-Russian cooperation from the point-of-view of their own selfish interests. Then it is told by Benes,<sup>1</sup> what panic took over the French government circles at the end of 1917 and in the beginning of 1918, with respect to a union between Germany and the new Russia. He is telling how freely they were breathing again when that what they have been in fear of, did not happen. Masaryk has tried to keep alive this fear in the Allies. In his book<sup>2</sup> he mentions a memorandum that was addressed by him upon his return from Russia on April 10, 1918 to the Allies from Tokyo. In the first paragraph of this memorandum, he advises the Allies to recognize the rule of the Bolsheviks de jure and de facto and to support it. In the following 12 points he gives the grounds for it: he recommends to the Allies that the struggle conducted by them against Germany and Austria-Hungary should be continued on Russian ground, otherwise, the German agents would hold the ground in Russia, and they would not only take possession of the trade certificates but most of all the Russian press also.

The Allies, who supposedly came to help us, established a committee for the reshaping of the railroad network, as well as for the rearrangement of the transports from Vladivostok to Omsk. By this, most of all, they have served international interests. The Russian minister of communication made a good face to this foul

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1 E. Benes, "The Uprising of Nations." Page 511.

2 T. G. Masaryk, "The World Revolution." Page 212 and 216.

play. The situation became worse by the circumstance that Siberia did not have a single factory which could have been able to produce locomotives, wagons, or even machine parts. Still in the times of the Czarist governments, a large quantity of railroads materials have been ordered from Canada and the United States. Some of them were delivered already and were stored at Vladivostok. The Russian minister of communication was authorized to get only the most necessary part of this, but only under the condition that otherwise he would have to follow the instructions received. The Czechs had the opportunity to demand some wagons, according to their own discretion. Only an armored fist could have taken it away from them. But all our soldiers were at the frontline, where the fights became ever more difficult from month to month.

The Siberian railroad travels a length of several thousands of kilometers through the endless steppes and the dark tajga. This railroad was followed by the Bolsheviks also with the greatest attention because it provided the battlefield with the necessary food stuffs. The Bolsheviks dispatched gangs of robbers, which were hiding in the woods and had the trains derailed, attacked and plundered. The railroad committee decided to have the entire line guarded by military force. For this purpose, the line from Vladivostok to the Bajkal was given to the Japanese, the line among the Lake Bajkal to the 30th American regiment, and to the Romanians, the sector from Irkutsk via Tomsk to Novonikolajevsk to three Czech divisions, and from Novonikolajevsk to Barnaul to the Poles.<sup>1</sup> The latter ones have declared that they would not assume this duty any longer, at which point

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<sup>1</sup> The 5th Polish army division, which has been organized by the French in Siberia, was betrayed by the Czech legionnaires in February, 1920:

they were disarmed by the Bolsheviks and were confined behind barbed wire fences.

the Allies had threatened them that, in case of disobedience, the transportation across the ocean would not be realized for them.

The supervision of the railroad line was performed in a peculiar way. When the attacks came repeatedly, and led to shootings, killing soldiers doing guard duty, they have reinforced the guard, caught some of the robbers and hanged them, but let the gang run away without pursuit. When the local Russian authority volunteered to pursue that mob and to make an end to that impossible situation, the Czechs responded that we have nothing to do with it. When the attacks were further repeated the Czechs initiated so-called punitive expeditions, that is, the guardian of order were riding out and put some Russian villages on fire in the neighborhood, declaring that the peasants kept the robbers hidden in their homes and did not want to extradite them.

It was assumed that in the spring the Czechs would be put up in homes along the railroad line. However, they have declared that they are not going to leave the 20,000 waggons that have been used by them up to that time as living quarters, and they have put up special sentries for the protection of the stolen goods. This happened also under the patronage of the French major general Janin, superior commandant of the Czechs.

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In the middle of March, 1919, I was assigned by Admiral Koltchak to travel to the major cities of Siberia to inspect the garrison troops in them. I have visited some of them in the company of the English General Knox. In Irkutsk, the district commandant, Major General Artemjev invited us as his guests. During our conversation, he described the corruption of the Czech legions and the damages they caused to the population. The old fighter became so agitated during the conversation that he literally shook in his rage.

The representative of Great Britain, General Knox who was very well informed, and who himself became enraged several times over the behavior of the Czechs, just shrugged his shoulders, saying that he has to be patient with the Czechs because they still might be useful for us. On an other occasion I have cautioned General Knox that there are graffiti on the walls in the cities written in chalk or colored: "Knock down the Czechs! Save Russia!" At that time, General Knox mumbled something in a low voice about the lack of self-discipline on the part of the Russian people.

As I mentioned before, the Czechs were filled with hostile feelings toward Admiral Koltchak, and only Gajda reassured him in his telegrams of his high regard and his readiness to help. This has contributed to the differences of opinion which has existed anyhow between the Czech generals. Gajda's position became unsincere in his army, especially because of the sympathy of Czech National Council toward Syrový. Gajda presented the whole situation to Koltchak that, as it looks, he has to be punished for his pro-Russian attitude. Koltchak who was a man of sudden decisions and followed his good heart, under the influence of this first impression, has made an honest offer to the Czech, offering him the commander's position in the 1st Siberian army. Gajda has received this graceful offer of the superior commandant by bowing deeply before him and saying very flattering words. Thus, he came over into the Russian army, and, in addition, with the rank of a general. The Russian officers felt as if they had been hit with a fist in their faces.

Even then, there were rumors in Siberia, indicating that Gajda was an adventurer, he was once an army medic, who having deserted his army unit, got to the rank of an officer in a fraudulent way. This was then denied officially, and Admiral Koltchak, in his endless trust in Gajda, forbid to mentioned such gossips under the threat of heavy punishment. The Czechs had all the reasons to be silent about it.

Today, we have the true facts already. As it turned out, all what Gajda said, was a pack of lies, even his name was not Radola Gajda but Rudolf Geidl.<sup>1</sup> He had only four years in the highschool after which he worked as an apprentice in a perfumery. At the outbreak of the World War, Gajda has served in the Austro-Hungarian army as a medical non-commissioned officer. In 1915, he became a prisoner-of-war in Montenegro, and there he began to let himself called Doctor Gajda. The Montenegrins believed him and the perfumery apprentice became a doctor. Gajda has served in this capacity in the army of Montenegro till its collapse at the end of 1916. Then he decided to continue his adventurous life in Russia. He went to Odessa on an Italian ship.<sup>2</sup> He joined a Czech regiment with the name of Gajda, where the venturesome Czech who never cared to shrink back from anything, managed to get into a proper position within a short time, grew in respect and soon found himself as general at the head of a division.

Admiral Koltchak did not only take this impostor into the Russian service entrusting him with the command of a Russian army but he covered him also with decorations and made friends with him too.

At the beginning of the spring, the White Army started its advance from the Ural Mountains in the direction of the Volga. This attack was quite daring but the young, hotblooded volunteers could not be held back any more. A series of victorious battles followed. In the course of March and April, the White Army, under the command of General Hanshin, pressed forward to the Volga. In spite of the impassable roads, the army managed to make some five to six hundred kilometers. The Reds were fleeing in large numbers. If the Czech army corps had helped

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1 See the article entitled "Der Hochstapler als Generalstabschef," in the Munchener Neueste Nachrichten, numbers 25 and 26 of January, 1928.

2 These facts of the case although not with all these details, have been made public by the Russian press in the Far East.

us in any way in those days, our successes, combined with a final victory, could have broken the Bolsheviks entirely. However, the Czechs did not move, and what was even worse, the large Russian army of Siberia which was entrusted by Koltchak to Gajda, was also standing idly, although its strength was one and a half larger than that of the fighting Western Army. As a fact, the Army of Siberia did not participate in any battles in the course of March and April. Gajda has assembled his army in the area of Perm, Vjatka and Kotia because, from here, he wished to get into quick contacts with the English who were at that time in Archangelsk. This adventurer had immeasurably ambitious plans in his brain in those times. It was impossible to move Gajda from his intentions and to bring him to the decision to move quickly to the aid of the Western Army, by which this could have used its successes to force out a final victory. To the infinite disaster of Russia and to his individual destruction, Admiral Koltchak has put his full trust into this Czech.

Let me quote here the following from my notes of 1919: "In these days Gajda came with the chief of his general staff, General Bogoslovski, to Omsk, for a lecture. Cleverly prepared drawings and explanations illustrated what a powerful factor is represented by the Army of Siberia in its present state, indicating its organizational units, their groupings and foreseeable completions. Gajda has defended feverishly his intention, to march toward Vjatka, and he wished to document that the occupation of this and that of the city of Kazan would make it possible for him to advance to Moscow.

After the lecture. Governor Koltchak invited us for luncheon. The conversation was taken up by everyday subjects. Later, toward the evening we were left only with him, Gajda, with his chief of general staff, Bogoslavski, General Lebedev and myself in the Admiral's study. Again, we have tried to emphasize, how necessary it would be to do now our utmost to develop the offensive in the Volga region,

and to reestablish the contacts with the voluntary army from there. Otherwise there could be the threat of the collapse of the Western Army. We have seen this catastrophe approaching.

This was the first occasion when I could observe in Gajda's speech a certain modulation which have caught my attention later, in Yekaterinburg, several times. Gajda began to minimize the achievements of the Western Army in a very skillful way. At the same time, he praised the general strategical plan, and told tales about the deeds of his own army. He outlined a grand picture of the occupation of Kazan and Vjatka, furthermore mentioned, with reference to the contact with Archangelsk, how easy it would be to organize the import of English rifles, ammunition and vehicles. He outlined the situation in Moscow which could be taken easily and quickly, and he was able to assert his will with flattering words, simultaneously to assure the Governor of his boundless submissiveness. Only an objectively outsider could detect the not too forward character of his way of thinking and of his shiftiness.

The conversation became more and more intimate, and the time approached for the departure of General Gajda. At the farewell, Koltchak hugged Gajda, kissed him and said the following words which have left us concerned deeply: "You have heard it," — and he turned to General Lebedev and me — "I believe unshakably in Gajda, and in that that he will still achieve very much. If I would not be around, it should be your duty to have Gajda replacing me!"

It was painful to hear and to see how this sly and strong-willed man fell after these words on the shoulder of the Admiral just to disguise the expression of his face. Around his thin lips, there was a victorious smile, while he was quietly whispering something in the ears of the Admiral. Soon thereafter Gajda has left us, and the

question of the cooperation between the Western Army and the Army of Siberia remained unsolved.

The presses in Yekaterinburg and Perm — as almost everywhere else were in the hands of the liberals and the socialists, and they started out with a skilled action. They were singing daily praises of Gajda, speaking highly of his democratic way of thinking, they named him the saviour of Russia, who is in the possession of the required qualifications. Again, they have put out Moscow as the next task of action.

Gajda will be the first who would march in there!

As soon as Gajda felt that his situation with Koltchak is secure, he turned again to the Czech National Council. Those people did not have any objection against it because Gajda's position appeared to be suitable to get some advantage for themselves too. Endless praises, admirations and the increase of his ambitions helped the National Council to get into the graces of Gajda again. It did not take long to have his compatriots again praise the "military leader," who were entrusted by him with such important matters as the informational service and propaganda.

In early May, Admiral Koltchak has sent me to Yekaterinburg, to inspect the new units of the Army of Siberia. Soon after, the Governor came also to Yekaterinburg to stimulate the people serving on the front by his personal appearance. All high officials and military people of higher ranks were at the railroad station. They have posted an honor guard, some infantry and a cavalry troop dressed in eye-catching uniforms. Their garments were very similar to the kaftans of the regiment trumpeters. Gajda, at some distance from the rest of the others, was pacing up and down in a solemn way. He stopped only now and then to change a few words with one general or the other. It was very characteristic, what we had together for a conversation.

"General, what sort of a troop is this one here?" — I asked, pointing to the cavalrymen in the original uniforms.

"This is my bodyguard" — he answered.

"What original uniforms! Did you invent them?"

"No, General, this has a historical meaning. "

"What do you mean?"

"In Russia, all prominent men, so, for example, your Czar and the Grand Duke Nikolaj Nikolajevitch had, as it is well known, their own Caucasian bodyguards. I think when I shall march into Moscow, it will be necessary for me to be surrounded by a bodyguard too!"

"Are your Caucasians from the Caucasus?"

"No, I am collecting them here. Only they have to have a similar look."

Cautiously, on his tiptoes approached him an orderly officer and reported: "Here is the train, Brother General!"

This form of addressing him was a Czech custom and, simultaneously a testimony for the socialist type of friendship.

The honor guard presented arms and the military band played the national anthem. Koltchak stepped out of his compartment, his bearing was stooped, his face pale and haggard, and his sharply blinking eyes proved the signs of sleepless nights. His lips were closed, the corners of his mouth were bent down, and the deeply furrowed face betrayed his heavy worries. He inspects the troops, and, as it is the custom, he looks everybody firmly in the eyes.

"Thank you, my children!"

"At your command, Your Excellency!"

"I just have visited the heroic regiments in the west They have difficult task at hand. The communists are attacking them all the time with new forces. But God willing, we shall subdue the enemies of Russia. We only have to help each other!"

"At your service, your Excellency" — came the reply like a thunder and all faces became red of the joyful excitement.

Then the Admiral, with Gajda and a few other personalities went to the general staff where the chief of staff, General Bogolovski presented his report of the operational developments. The situation looked so that the only possible solution has offered itself almost automatically. The Western Army has retreated somewhat and the front of the Siberian Army was pushed forward, and, practically speaking, it exerted a pressure from the side upon the Reds. A single attack from the north, and the Bolshevik regiments would have been forced to retreat to the Volga.

Koltchak was completely conscious of this single possibility. Then again, came Gajda and spoke up on his quiet, measured, perseverant voice. He has tried to assure us that the "big plan" should not be changed under any circumstances, that the success of the Western Army is questionable and the occupation of Kazan and Vjatka appears to be secured. And, again, nothing happened...

Then followed the inspection of the assault parties, which were put together in Yekaterinburg, and which constituted the reserve of Gajda. To them belonged the "Immortal Battalion of General Gajda," with the brown shoulder stripes, which were decorated with the letters "B.B.I.G.G." The members of this entire army corps wore a black and red stripe on their arms as in the times of Kerenski.

Admiral Koltchak passed in slow, measured steps by the review line of the troops also, and he looked so sharply in the eyes of the soldiers as if he wanted to transfer into each one of them his willpower, his ardent love for his country and the desire to liberate it. The review was followed by a parade march. The appearance of the men was good, their clothing also satisfactory, only their training has not been finished fully, but, combined with the old troops, they could be used quite well.

After the lunch provided by Gajda Koltchak left quite tired of the review of the troops and of the conversations about the strategy. On the matter of the Siberian Army they have decided that it would keep its offensive direction against the Vjatka-Kotlas region. On this day, Gajda has mentioned to me that he could occupy the city of Glasov along that same line in any hour because more than a half of his troops have already been posted on all points there.

"Then, why don't you occupy it?"

"Its time did not come yet As soon as I think it to be correct, I shall give the order for that"

As a Russian general, I regarded it as my duty to inform Koltchak about this conversation, and to request him again, that he should finally persuade the sly Czech to move quickly forward with his large armed forces for the support of the Western Army. The commander-in-chief beared me through, then with a bend forward he shook his head. As he looked up, I could perceive an inextinguishable pain in his eyes. Then he added in a quite voice: "Do you know that, via General Knox, the king of England has sent a great decoration to Gajda? "

And he made a tired gesture with his hand.

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The army of General Hanshin which has not received any support from Gajda, exhausted in the struggle which have lasted without any letdown for two months, had given in to the pressure of the Bolsheviks. In these difficult days, I have received the order from the Governor that I should take over the position of the chief of the general staff under Hanshin, then, in the beginning of the month of June, 1919, I was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Western Army replacing General Hanshin. Finally, Gajda issued the order for his troops to occupy the city of Glasov. Really, its capture went through without any particular losses, its effects were, in fact, very important but the reaction was not long in coming either.

The Bolsheviks threw themselves upon the Western Army with full force, they have destroyed its offensive toward the Volga, then they have attacked Gajda's army also. Some of the units of the Siberian Army mutineered, and went over to the Bolsheviks in large groups. Such events, as it was generally customary, were introduced by the killing of the officers.

These difficulties have been exploited by Gajda quickly to his own advantage. Bypassing the Governor, he addressed a letter to the ministerial council at Omsk, telling that the cause of the misfortunes is not his error but the inaptitude of the highest military leadership. He was swearing by all that is holy, that everything would be lost if he would not be entrusted with the highest command over all of the troops. He was particularly sharp in his criticism of General Lebedjev. The tone of his letter was threatening, and he has disclosed that, in case if his wish would not be fulfilled, he would leave the positions with his troops, entirely.

This has caused a great excitement. Admiral Koltchak had to go to Gajda in person to Yekaterinburg from where they have returned to Omsk, together. Here they have started endless negotiations while Gajda's Siberian Army retreated more and more. It appeared as if the Governor would like to remove Gajda having seen his false game with his own eyes. However, he did not have the courage to take a decisive step, and he made again some concessions. Gajda has received the right of command over the Western Army also but only with respect to the military operations.

However, the events of the following days had forced to resign from the command after two days already. "The Immortal Battalions of General Gajda" went over to the Bolsheviks. Similar events happened along all sections of the front held by the Siberian army almost every day. Instead of the irresistible offensive, a whole series of failures took place which had affected the mood of the army and the population very depressingly. The

efficient propaganda of the Bolsheviks has put the scarcely relaxed public mood into a ferment again. The rumors had hit me the more because, in the neighboring Western Army which stood under my command, the good, old spirit took hold again, and the national consciousness became victorious over the Bolshevik mentality. Not a single man of the Western Army went over to the enemy.

The Army of Siberia which was not long ago strong and powerful, went to pieces and disappeared right before our eyes. Its destruction was completed the faster since there was not a single attempt to direct at least smaller counter-offensives for the stopping of the advance of the Reds. They have surrendered Perm without any battles with all its factories, while they let go enormous supplies of ammunition and the entire river fleet. All these became possible only for the reason that that army was put under the command of that field medic.

Finally, the Governor has decided to remove Gajda, and to put another commander in his place. Gajda has attempted to resist by threats, what has moved Koltchak ordering him reduced to the ranks and to remove him from the army. Hoarding his valuables in his special train, this impostor Geidi left for Vladivostok in the company of his compatriots under the protection of the Czech National Council and the French Janin, and he remained there till the winter...

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In spite of all misfortunes, we have managed in those days to assemble new forces and to prepare for a new offensive. Siberia, this inexhaustible source of goods presented us with the treasures of its land, and helped us to come to new strength. And we were helped through all difficulties by the perseverance of the Russian people. During our retreat to the interior of Siberia, we have completed all the reforms which were necessary, and we have reorganized our troops what was inevitable for the continuation of the struggle.

The autumn of 1919 was particularly warm, and the frost came only somewhat later. These were fine days, with beautiful morning hours and sundown shining like gold. Even the nights were warm, and only the soft coldish breeze gave indication of the approaching winter... The endless fields of Siberia disappeared in the blue mists of the horizon and the rolling crops were illuminated in the sun's golden rays. The harvest was particularly rich in the whole of Siberia and, for us, the beautiful autumn was a special gift of the heavens...

Our army started a new offensive and, unexpectedly, it attacked the Bolsheviks. In the entire month of September and in part of October we have successfully attacked the Reds causing great losses to them. The army which was active in the main direction, that is, along the railroad line, was under my command. My three army divisions pursued the retreating Reds through some two hundred kilometers. We were successful here although our losses were high also. My army needed some rest. After having pushed the Reds back beyond the Tobol, we had to stop, in order to regain our strength, and to fill up our food-supplies again, which we had to do especially in the view of the approaching winter.

In my camp, we have received news about the condition of the Bolshevik Army. For example, one of the red armies, on the occasion of an exercise, took its cavalrymen for our Cossacks, leaving the field in a wild flight before them. Captured Red Guards told us that, in case if the offensive of the Whites would not stop, and Celjabinsk would fail, they would desert the flag; before that, however, they would kill the people's commissars. Thus, there was again a critical moment, which could have signified a new turn of historical events. If the Czechs would have helped us with a single division at that time, with just 10.000 of their 50.000 men, the Reds would have disappeared from the face of the earth, and the Russian people would have been liberated from the bloody dictator-

ship. But the Czechs, with their weapons in their hands, remained seated in the front of their loaded wagons and did not move...

The Bolsheviks have realized the danger of this moment, and disengaged themselves from the other fronts, to be able to attack us in the middle of October with multiplied forces. My army which did not receive any supplements, shivered up before my eyes. Finally, after a hard struggle of four days, the Reds managed to cross the Tobol river and to break into the left wing of our outstretched fighting line. It was indescribably painful to see how the remnants of my excellent army which, before a short time, have victoriously swooped forward to the Tobol, were forced to pull back again toward the east, and all these because the supply system was negligent and the Czechs let us down.

A book was published in Prague by Senator Dr. Kreici who was the editor-in-chief of the Social-Democratic newspaper "Pravo Lidu". He describes his stay in Siberia in the summer of 1919 when he headed a delegation commissioned by the Czechs.

On page 78 of this book, Kreici describes his visit to the Czech quartermaster general's department at the station of Innokentjevskaja, in the vicinity of Irkutsk.:1 "The purpose of my journey today is to collect information on the food supply and equipment of our army. Here, at Innokentjevskaja, is the central quartermaster department of our army and its main departments are centered here.

"The soul of it is Major Vavroch. (Prior to the war, he lived in Russia, and he was the manager of a hotel in Petersburg.) At first sight there is nothing exceptionally prominent in this man, but, judged on the basis of the results of his work, he might be a very eminent, energetic

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1 F. V. Krejci, "U sibirské armady". (Praha, 1922.) Pages 78 and 79.

and skilled businessman. He found the means to procure innumerable loads of goods which have been under the disposition of the Russian army. All storage areas are filled with supplies: food-products, tea, dried meat, overcoats, caps, and a variety of other items, which are indispensable for an army. The tea supply alone is so large that we should spend many years here to be able to drink all that tea.

"I have to confess that it was not an easy task to check out all that supply storage even in a superficial way. It took half of a day but our tiredness was pleasurable knowing that our men in Siberia do not have to suffer any shortages, and that on the side of the idealistic thinking they have also the sense for practicality. One of the task of my journey in Siberia was to learn about the way of living of the legionnaires there. Who is supplying them? Are they living there like the lilies of the fields, or they consume at the campfire, what they have had the opportunity to beg together during the day? The wonderful quartermaster department at Innokentjevskaja gave excellent answers to my questions! Its task was to secure the army everything what it needed, and it has solved the problem brilliantly. It has established separate departments in Vladivostok, and Karbin, even in the Urals, which means that the groups of the legions which are stationed toward the south receive the necessary supplies also.

"The so-called army service corps commissary the task of which is to distribute the materials among the troops, was mentioned to me in Irkutsk already. It is headed by Colonel Petrisch. "

On page 93 of his book, "Senator" Krejci describes the life style of the Czech legionnaires in Siberia.<sup>1</sup>

"Thus, I could learn about the lives of our soldiers at the railroad stations on the basis of my own personal observations.

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<sup>1</sup> F. V. Krejci, "U sibirske armady". (Praha, 1922. Pages 93 and 97).

"Every little railroad station in Siberia consists of several buildings. Mostly small, but comfortable houses fenced in by hedgerows. In better times, railroad employees have lived peaceful, happy lives in these houses, in fact, cultured lives in many respects. The employees had, in addition to their homes, schools, baths, clubs, even beautiful theatres and concert halls also. These buildings came very handy for our legionnaires, because, otherwise, where could have they found similarly comfortable housing in Siberia?

"Thus, the life of our legionnaires develops along the main railroad lines, between the railroad wagons in which they are eating and sleeping, and between these railway-men's houses in which they are doing their service, listening to music and lectures and dancing sometimes... "

In the months of October and November, we were fighting with varying success. The Bolsheviks have exploited every possibility. They have reinforced their lines with new troops, and they were present in much larger number than our men. The White Army had to pull back toward the east but was fighting for every inch of the ground.

The Siberian winter was about to begin but only of our troops were fitted out yet. We were not able to find the necessary things so fast, and the Czechs did not hand over any of their stolen properties. On November 15, the city of Omsk was occupied by the Bolsheviks which was known up to now as the headquarters of the Koltchak government. The evacuation was performed under the protection of the retreating army, and the sick, wounded, as well as the family members of the officers and the volunteers were transported by trains toward the east. Our strategical plan provided for the upkeep of the troops through the winter in the east and the establishment of a frontline behind the retreat, similarly to the line at Marjinsk. The intention was to make a definite order behind the front also during the winter, and to fill up the places of the missing forces with new human material able to fight. We have hoped that, be-

fore the spring of 1920, we shall become strong enough to march into Moscow across the Volga.

This plan was not unworkable because the people have felt the ferocity and senselessness of the Bolshevik rule on their own skin both in Russia and Siberia and they have promised their support from everywhere. The three factors necessary for the execution of this plan were available: the strength and the spirit of the army which has resisted, up to this time, all sorts of hardships; Koltchak, the military leader who enjoyed the trust of everybody, and, finally, the empire's gold reserves, thirty full wagonloads which followed the admiral where ever he went.

However, all these were stolen by the Czech legionaries from the Russians!

## **The treason**

**(November, 1919 — February, 1920)**

The Czechs, like some routed up cattle horde, dashed at top speed toward the east. Influenced by the inciting propaganda of their National Council, and under the protection of their supreme commander, Janin, they have lost all their senses for order and discipline, attacked all trains which did not belong to Czechs, brandishing their rifles, they have threatened the travelers and the personnel, and detached the locomotives.

This has caused a real catastrophe at the railroad junction, the Tajga station, because the railroad line from Tomsk met here the main line, and the most dangerous of the Czech army divisions, the second, was stationed here.

From this place, there was no way to send any trains toward the east. As a giant snake, the Czech transport system stretched from here: 50.000 men in 20.000 railway

wagons. The transfer at the Tajga was completely blocked and the chaos which resulted from it grew day by day. The Russian trains which were loaded with the wounded, and were stopped west of Novonikolajevsk, requested with increasing desperation the opening of the line and the delivery of locomotives. The danger was imminent that the wounded and the disabled would fall in the hands of the Bolsheviks.

The Siberian winter arrived and there was great shortage of food-stuffs and clothing. An icy wind blew/across the land, and, from the skies, dust like snow filtered down; the cold grew more and more alarmingly day by day. At every station, dozens of trains were idling, filled with sick and wounded people, with old persons, women and children. But there was no possibility to move forward these unfortunate people, or to supply them with food or heating materials. It was a real punishment of God. Several hundreds of Russians, hungry, half-naked, sick and exposed to death, just because 50.000 strong, well rested Czechs wanted to bring their stolen properties to some safe place!

Here I mention a confession which was made by Senator Krejci the above mentioned head of the Czech delegation.<sup>1</sup> "Although the Bolsheviks were still very far, a situation was created on the main arteries of communication which harbored great dangers for our evacuation operations. An extremely large number of Russian military trains were approaching our positions in the west where horrible chaos and disorder broke out

"Our supreme command issued an order that our troops should restore order out on the line between Novonikolajevsk. For some reasons, it was not possible any more, so nothing else was left but to think of our own interests in the following. As ordered by General Syrowy, our train troops have not permitted to go through any trains toward the east They have not made an exception with those seven

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<sup>1</sup> F. V. Krejci: "U sibirsk armady." (Praha, 1922).

trains either with which Koltchak, together with state-owned gold treasures, was fleeing from Omsk.

"The former Chancellor got stuck somewhere amidst the most horrible scramble, and he sent one excited telegram after the other to get the road opened. However, our command center remained uncompromising and replied only:

'It is forbidden!'"

"I do not even dare to think of it, how much misery and suffering was caused by this for the refugees: thousands and thousands of Russian military and civilian persons spent days, even weeks on the trains agonizingly waiting without being able to make a move while their ranks were decimated by hunger, frost and the typhus."

The commander of the Czech army division, Jan Syrový, went forward to Krasnojarsk, and the Czech commander-in-chief, Major General Janin was already in Irkutsk. All orders which have been issued by the active and careful minister of communications, Ustrugov, remained without any results, because the Czech army was not restrainable any more. When Koltchak demanded by wire from Syrový and Janin to stop the wild depredations committed by the Czechs, they have replied that "they are not able to fight the forces of nature". Jan Syrový, in addition, made indecent remarks about the reactionary and non-democratic Russian government.

An eyewitness has written the following about the railroad line of the Tajga:<sup>1</sup> "The line of the trains which were stretching on the road from Omsk to Novonikolajevsk toward the east, and were filled with the wounded and the refugees, was next to immeasurable. Only the first trains managed to go forward toward the Baykal, the rest were all hung up somewhere along the road. Countless numbers of very old people, children and women have been slaughtered

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<sup>1</sup> In the article entitled "Czechoslovaks", published in the newspaper "Djelo Rossii" (Tokyo, 1920). Number 14.

by the beastly Reds, but the number of those who died of typhus or froze to death in the unheated railroad cars was even higher. Only very few were able to free themselves of this hell. On one side, the Reds were coming closer and closer to them, on the other side came the cold, and, from the immense, uninhabited forests of Siberia the death was sneering at them. There was no escape!

"As the days passed, these death-bend faces became more relaxed and quiet, their rattling throats became subdued, and the crying of the children and the laments of the mothers were silenced forever... The red painted waggons stood there, with the horrifying loads as enormous coffins and only the pine trees flustered to each other about the horrible events. Cold winds have sounded their burial songs and the snowstorms have left their white shrouds over the abandoned railroad cars... The greatest, in fact, the only responsibility for all these falls upon the Czechs. Instead of staying where they were, permitting the trains of the wounded and the refugees passing by, they have uncoupled and purloined the locomotives, and, thus, they paralyze the entire railroad traffic. Curse upon their heads!"

An other eyewitness, Major General ..... wrote the following: "Those reasons which have persuaded the Czechs to these unfortunate people to the death, can be understood easily if we consider the following: 50 percent of the trains were in the hands of the Czechs and they were loaded with goods stolen from the Volga area. In order to salvage their loot, they have sacrificed the lives of the inhabitants. For each stolen piece, they have paid with Russian blood."<sup>2</sup>

Governor Koltchak communicated to the Hetman General Sjemenov that he issued an order, according to which they have to force the Czechs, by all means (if by no other way, by the explosion of one of the tunnels) to the opening of the railroad line.

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1 "Die tschechischen Argonauten in Sibirien" (Tokyo, 1921.) Page 19.

However, the Czech horrors were still not finished by that, the last act of the tragedy just followed: the Russian government and the Russian army had to perish also. This was the aim of the Czech National Council, this was the reason why they had exuded the propaganda behind the back of the army.

On the 17th of November, 1919, they were successful to bring about the first mutiny. Gajda's headquarters were in a Pullman car in Vladivostok, and it was under the protection of some missions of the Allied powers. He has assembled some of his own compatriots, and he found also followers from among the lower classes of the Russians, particularly among the longshoremen. He organized the mutiny with such elements. He armed himself too, wearing the uniform of a Russian field Marshall, without the epaulettes. Their password: "Enough of the war, we want peace!" This was the same which has been tested by Lenin and Trockij in the fall of 1917, and which has led to the dissolution of the Russian army. However, on the next day, the "comrades" appeared on the scene, pushed Gajda aside, and now they were the ones who shouted: "All domination and power belong to the Soviets! Long live the Federated Russian Socialist Soviet Republic!" On the third day, the students of the General Staff College at Russki Ostrov who were ordered over there, defeated the uprising. Gajda and his followers were arrested. It was not difficult to overpower the rebels because they were completely unpopular and the population hated the Bolsheviks without exception.

Admiral Koltchak issued an order by telegram that the leaders of the uprising should be tried in the military court, and eventually, should be executed. General ..... describes<sup>1</sup> that, in order to free the leaders of the rebels, the Czechs used a very cheap way of argument. They de-

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<sup>1</sup> "Die tschechischen Argonauten in Sibirien." Page 17.

dared before the Allied representatives and the Russian General Rossanov that they shall use their own, excellently equipped army for the liberation of Gajda. In an incomprehensible way, Rossanov gave in that, under the persuasion of the foreign missions, he freed Gajda and his companion, Hussarek, and on their word of honor he handed them over to the Czechs.

Then, when one of the newspapers in Vladivostok, revealed Gajda as an impostor in one of its articles, who escaped from Austria as a field medic and as a do-nothing, and who will return now as a general and an immensely rich man to his country, the Czechs have attempted to get these assertions retracted; but they did not have enough sense of honor to stand up against them. The head of the Czech diplomatic mission requested the discontinuation of such rumors about Gajda, especially "on the basis of his merits in Russia. " to which the Russian newspaper replied: "Russia does not know about the merits of Gajda, but if there still would be any, we should not forget that Judas was also one of the disciples of Christ before he had betrayed him..."

At this point, it has to be emphasized that the instigator of the rebels was Dr. Girska, and the Czech National Council has furnished them with weapons and ammunition. It must be added that Gajda has managed to screw 300.000 yens from the Russian Credit Bank for propaganda purposes.<sup>1</sup> After the incident in Omsk, Dr. Girska, the official representative of the newly formed Czech Republic, have sent the following telegram to Gajda to Vladivostok: "Go on, everything is prepared here..."

Almost simultaneously with the uprising at Vladivostok, a so-called memorandum, signed by Dr. Girska and Dr. Pavlu, was published which they have directed to the Allies. In the introduction, the Czechs, making a fake show,

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<sup>1</sup> "Die tschechischen Argonauten in Sibirien." Page 19.

are asking for the advice of the Allies, how could the Czech army be transported without any losses back to home... Then they are continuing their lies about the despotism of the Russian authorities as follows: "The representatives of democracy are always shot to death, simply for the reason of political unreliability." Finally, the memorandum talks about the "responsibility"... "before the people the world over... "

A more blatant intrusion into the domestic politics of Russia could not have been imagined, and it was done by thieves, robbers and cowards, in the name of law, rights and humanity! They have requested their immediate transportation back to their country, or permission to armed resistance against every form of violence and attack.

The memorandum was a pure falsehood, with the exception of its introduction, in which they have requested their return to their country. Besides, this memorandum wanted to deliver an early proof for that, that the Czechs did not participate in the uprisings.

If they had acted really in the sense of this memorandum, then, may be, our leader, Koltchak, would be still alive, we still would have our Russian army, and Russia could have thrown down the bloody tyranny of the Internationale. Although, the Czechs still would have to carry the responsibility before the peoples the world over because of the robberies, treasons, the brute violence committed against defenseless people and their murders.

Major General ..... writes the following:<sup>1</sup> "The Czechs are stating falsehoods when they are talking about 'elemental calamities". Well, the chaos along the Siberian railroad line has been prepared by them as planned. Regardless, how difficult it would have been to conduct the retreat along the railroad line, it still would have been possible to salvage a large part of the trains. Because of the conditions in

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<sup>1</sup> "Die tschechischen Argonauten in Sibirien." Page 19.

Siberia the Bolshevik army could advance only very hardly, and the part of the Siberian army which was still intact, did not yet lose its readiness to fight. Those troops which still had enough energy, in spite of the 40 degrees cold, to perform a retreat which appeared to be almost incredible would have had the strength in themselves, to stop the advance of the Reds by fighting ability. However, the disturbances caused by the Czechs have made all these impossible. In addition, there was in Novonikolajevsk an entire, unharmed Polish division, ready to fight, and, along the railroad line, there were relatively few Bolshevik troops as yet. The vigorous Czechs who also had their armored trains could have defended the line very easily."

The Czechs, in order to put themselves and their loot in security within a short time, brought about the fall of the government of Admiral Koltchak, and made it easy for the Bolsheviks to disrupt the Russian army.

' It was fatal that Koltchak still trusted Janin, the French commander-in-chief. He let himself be persuaded, and, contrary to my warning, he decided to leave his army and to go ahead with his five trains, — one of them carrying the gold reserves of the Russian imperial government. This irreparable error has cost the life of the Russian admiral, and the downfall of the cause of Russia.

As did Kreici, the historian of the legionnaires, Dr. Steidler has tried also, to shift the responsibility of the Czechs over to the French major general Janin. Steidler describes the dark days of the treason and the tribulations the following way:<sup>1</sup>

"An entire Polish army corps and a Serbian regiment had voluntarily surrendered to a smaller Bolshevik army. Therefore, the Czech train troops came in immediate contacts with the advance guards of the Bolsheviks. "

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Steidler: "Die Tschechoslovakische Bewegung in Russland."

"The Czechoslovak command tried to avoid any further confrontation which, contrary to the instructions received from the home country, would have put off the evacuation to an unpredictable time. For this reason, they have sent out some negotiators to the Bolshevik advance guards on January 11."

"The Bolsheviks who became stunned by the success of the capture of the Czech division, demanded the immediate termination of the evacuation toward the east, the transfer of the weapons, and that the entire division should be transported toward the east as prisoners-of-war under the control of the Soviet troops."

"The Bolshevik artillery took our troops in the east under fire, so they as fast as they could, removed themselves from the dangerous zone."

"Simultaneously with these events, the Russian democratic system which should have thanked us for Koltchak's fall which was caused principally by our neutral stand, and by the circumstance that our troops at the Lake Baykal dispersed the dangers which have threatened through Semjenov, — became distrustful toward us. Consequently, as ordered by General Janin, Admiral Koltchak and Prime Minister Pepeljaev were transported to Irkutsk, and, on January 15, handed to the 'Political Center' for sentencing by the Emergency Committee. However, the gold treasures remained at the station of Irkutsk under Czechoslovak-Russian (Red) control. "

"On January 19, 1920, the advance guards of the Whites, after a victorious battle, destroyed the power of the Bolsheviks in Nisnijudnis. The local soviets managed to lie low; on the other hand, the defeated Red Guards took refuge with the Czechoslovaks and requested them to give shelter."

The fight of the Whites did not please the Czechs, as it is told by the "historian of the legionnaires", Dr. Steidler.

For this purpose did they send so many Russian

women, children, old people, sick and wounded to their death east of the Tayga station; for this purpose did they attack the White troops, did they capture and betray the Russian Chancellor, Admiral Koltchak. "Only after all these" — writes Steidler — "began to improve the situation of our rear-guard." After the extradition of Koltchak for the "Democrats", the "peaceful negotiations with the Bolsheviks began without delay, these having grabbed the power in Irkutsk after 10 days." According/ to Steidler, the relationship between the Czechs and the Bolsheviks was quite "comradely".

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An other eyewitness of these events has published extraordinarily devastating details regarding the Czechs: on the 19th of November, 1919, the Reds have occupied Omsk already. In these times, the legionnaires have finally dropped their masks and they have rushed to the support of the new political direction. The "comrades" at Misnendinsk have expressed their gratitude for the effective support for the Czechs.<sup>1</sup>

At first, the Czechs let through the trains of the Admiral. However, after Krasnojarsk, they have let through only two, and after their departure, they have organized an uprising in the city, under the same slogan as in Vladivostok: "Down with the civil war!"

As the two trains of Admiral Koltchak approached the station of Nishnejdinsk, suddenly they were surrounded by Czech troops equipped with machine guns. This happened on the 18th of December, 1919. The company which served at the admiral, prepared for the battle, but the Governor forbid them to do anything before he could negotiate personally with the Czechs and Janin. All efforts by the general staff officers of the admiral to get in contact

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<sup>1</sup> General Staff Major Geza dell' Adami: "Erlösung aus Sibirien."

with the chief emissary of the Allies, remained unsuccessful. Janin declared that he has no time.

*"He had no time to talk to the Governor of the Russian Empire!"*

Janin was busy to leave Irkutsk and hurried toward the east. As a matter of fact, in the follow-up of the Czech revolt, the "Political Center" of the half-bolsheviks managed to get hold of the power. The troops loyal to the government had to leave the city after two days of fight. The Czechs have attacked the troops coming to the aid of the city from Chita under the command of General Skipetrov, disarmed it, and took possession of the regiment's cash.

Finally, Janin has sent a telegram to Admiral Koltchak, in which he, in his usual smooth style, requested him to resign himself to the inevitable and entrust his person to the protection of the Czechs. If he would not do it, Janin would not accept any responsibility for the subsequent events. Then he mentioned that it has a special meaning that the protection by the Czechs is backed up by five great powers. As the visible proof of this protection under Janin's order there were five flags put in the windows of the railway car which was left for the Governor and his entourage: the English, Japanese, American, Czech and French flags. The entourage of the admiral was dismissed and his guard force was replaced by Czechs. In no way was this an honor guard, out of respect for a leader, but rather the custodial force for a prisoner.

A contemporary and eyewitness of the tragedy in Siberia who can not be called a reactionary or harboring any anti-democratic way of thinking, A. Gutmann-Hahn, wrote the following about this treason:<sup>1</sup>

"The revolt in Irkutsk began when Janin and the Czechs decided to get rid of Koltchak, and his system

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<sup>1</sup> "Die Weisse Sache". Vol. 3, pages 173-179.

should be replaced by a Government of the Social-revolutionaries. Their purpose was to make it possible for the Czechs to remove their stolen properties and other valuables from Siberia without any supervision. Still on the eve of his capture, Admiral Koltchak has sent a telegram to Vladivostok, that the packages of the Czechs be checked under any circumstances. That Janin should negotiate about the passage of Koltchak's train, could not be a matter of consideration because he did not have any need to do so; namely, east of Irkutsk, the entire railroad line was put under Janin's discretion."

The train progressed slowly with Admiral Koltchak and the gold reserves toward the east. The Reds have made the first attempt at the station of Tcherenchovo where there are large coal mines, to get hold of these two things so valuable to them. Bolshevik workers who received their weapons from the Czechs, were already in power at Tcheremtchovo, and demanded the extradition of the admiral and the gold. The Czech commander received an order that he should solve the situation by reaching an agreement, and that he should include a platoon of the Reds into the guarding force.

The train was approaching and the same Czech commander has given the advice to some officers in the entourage of the admiral that they should take to flight because the situation is completely insecure. Upon the question of the officers, what sort of danger could threaten them, the sly Czech remained silent. And, when the admiral had demanded an answer from him in person, he evaded every further reply, saying, that the negotiations which went on by phone between General Syrovy and Janin who was then at the Baykal Station, are unknown.

Syrovy's orderly officer, Captain Skatzel described it in his book entitled "With General Syrowy in Siberia" in an audaciously open way:1

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1 A. Kotomkin: "Ober die tschechoslovakischen Legionare." Page 90.

"When Admiral Koltchak was transported to Irkutsk, the head of the food supply unit, the Czech Grabtchnik has asked for instructions on the phone regarding the food provisioning for Koltchak. Syrový has replied that the admiral should be catered to from the kitchen of the rank and file."

"The night passed in anguish because of the possibilities of unforeseeable events. Next morning the car of the admiral was pushed to a dead-end rail. As it was told by persons in the entourage of the admiral, they all had the alarming feeling of some unfathomably horrible event coming. Some inconceivable horror approached them slowly, but irresistibly. The governor has seen a Japanese train, not far from the station building, and he sent over his aid-de-camp, first lieutenant Trubtchaninov with a note in his hand; however, the Czechs did not permit him to go over there and he came back without accomplishing anything. The Japanese did not get mixed in the matter because they were convinced of the truth of the information they have received from General Janin, including the part that Admiral Koltchak, under the protection of the Czechs, is in security, and is traveling to the east. After some months, I had the opportunity to talk to some Japanese who were close to the government circles, and who told me the following:

"From the details received from the entourage of Koltchak, the events developed as follows:

"At four o'clock in the afternoon, a Czech officer came to the admiral, telling him that a decision was made that he would be extradited to the revolutionary government in Irkutsk.

'But why? — asked Koltchak, and looked with his large, stinging eyes at the Czech officer who casting down his eyes looked away in an embarrassed way.

"The revolutionary authorities in Irkutsk make the free passage of the Czechs dependant on the extradition

of the admiral. I have received the order from General Syrowy that I should give you over to them "

"How is it possible? I was assured by General Janin personally about my personal security... And what is then the importance of these flags? " said Admiral Koltchak pointing to the English, Japanese, American, Czech and French flags.

The Czech remained silent and did not dare to look up.

"So, I was betrayed by the Allies?" — burst out the admiral.

In a short time, representatives of the revolutionary government, escorted by the half-Bolshevik Red Guard appeared in the compartment of the train. The Czech handed the governor over to them. Then, the Reds took the governor, accompanied by a few of his orderly officers, to the city prison of Irkutsk. They have brought his minister, Pepeljaev there also.

After that, the revolutionary committee of the city of Irkutsk appointed a committee to investigate the "sins" of Admiral Koltchak and his prime minister Pepeljaev, which, according to their contention, consisted of conspiracy against democracy and useless bloodshed.

It is confirmed by Gutmann-Hahn that "the head of Koltchak was a security in the hands of the Czechs, and that the uprisings have been organized by the Czechs with the help of the half-Bolsheviks, for the purpose to enable General Janin to be able to report to the Chief Commissioner of the Allies that the suppression of the dictatorship of the Whites was the will of the people,"

Furthermore, it is stated by Gutmann-Hahn that it is certain that this community of action was achieved in the service of the common interests of Janin and the Czechs.

Besides, the treason of the Czechs is verified by the Bolshevics also. The chairman of the revolutionary committee in Irkutsk writes the following: "The head of

Admiral Koltchak was the designated prize for the free passage of the Czechs."

One more of the influential Bolsheviks, the chairman of the revolutionary committee of Siberia, Smirnov writes in his book, "Struggle for the Urals and Siberia" about the agreement which became finalized between him and the Czech authorities at the station of Kuitun in the morning of February 7, at 9 o'clock. Paragraph 5 of this agreement reads as follows: "The Czech armies transfer Admiral Koltchak and his followers who were arrested by the revolutionary committee of Irkutsk, to the power of the Soviets and put them under the protection of the Soviet troops, with the simultaneous promise that they are not going to be involved in any way in the measures by the Soviet power regarding the prisoners. "

Still on the same day, Smirnov sent a telegram to Irkutsk, regarding the execution of Koltchak by the firing' squad.

Regarding this telegram, Smirnov himself writes the following:1

"We were separated from our comrades by a distance of more than 500 kilometers. How was it then possible to communicate with the occupied Irkutsk? And, in addition, in a delicate matter like the case of the governor? We were very much surprised that the Czech legionnaires permitted our delegation to inform our comrades in Irkutsk about the progress of the peace negotiations but they did not even have any objections against the furtherance of the above telegram to the revolutionary committee of Irkutsk."

"Senator" Krejci, the delegate of the Czech committee in Siberia writes the following about this Czech betrayal:2

"The Political Center, under the pressure of the

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1 Smirnov: "Struggle for the Urals and Siberia." Page 311.

2 F. V. Krejci: "U sibirskis armady." (Praha, 1922) Footnote to page 244.

Bolshevik revolutionary command demanded the extradition of Koltchak from General Janin. Janin, resigned to the exchangeability of the situation, has issued the respective instructions."

"The train of Admiral Koltchak arrived at Inno-kentjevskaja in the afternoon of December 18. The representative of the government, A. B. Kosminsky was invited by Blagos, the representative of the Czech government to his office in Irkutsk, to negotiate about the extradition of Admiral Koltchak. Around 6 o'clock, both political representatives left for the station where the internees were kept under a mixed Czech and Red Russian confinement. The commander of the train, the Czech Kravak has asked the head of the political center, Kozminsky, how the extradition should take place. He received the reply that Admiral Koltchak will be put in front of a committee which committee will be constituted of the representatives of the Political Center and the representatives of the Revolutionary Army. This committee will handle the case of Koltchak in a fastest possible way, then they will hand him over to the next committee qualified in such cases, the Cheka. The committee arrived to the station around 7 o'clock, and, under their orders, the former chancellor was led under strict surveillance to the prison of the city.

Dr. Girska and Bogdan Pavlu, in their memorandum, have spoken of the responsibility toward the peoples of the whole world, and they have prepared the bloody treason simultaneously.

It is also very conspicuous, that the new government in Irkutsk to which the Czechs transferred that admiral and the Russian gold reserves, quickly formed a so-called "Political Center", which was headed by a money shark from Charkov named Feldmann, a man named Kosminski and a deserted sub-lieutenant. This administrative organ which could have been fitting into an operetta, and which

could thank the Czech arms for its existence, issued as its first order the following telegram, under the signature of its minister of finance, Patishinski, to Kovaljevski, the director of the customs office in Vladivostok: "On the basis of their merits in Russia, the Czechs should be admitted to their ships freely, without the searching of their packages, with the permission that they can take everything out what they like."

All these are proven facts. The creators of the Czechoslovak Republic and of the new Czechoslovak nation, Masaryk and Benes, who are praising each other's greatness, are absolutely silent about these events.

When the Czechs arrived to Vladivostok, they began the preparations for their final departure from Siberia, and they have issued a last proclamation to the peoples of Siberia. In this, they have declared that they have captured Koltchak not only to hand him over to the judgement of the people, but also because he was an enemy of the Czechs. Who else would have issued the order to the Hetman Semjenov to prevent the retreat of the Czechs by any means, even if it would cost the blowing up of a tunnel!

First of all, it was not a retreat but a flight with stolen goods. Besides, it was not Admiral Koltchak but I, in my capacity as the then commander-in-chief of the eastern front, who, with his consent, gave the order that, in a given situation, they should not shrink back even from the blowing up of a tunnel if there would not be any other way to bring the Czechs to their senses. And then:

Koltchak as a reactionary! If one should look for the cause of his own destruction and the collapse of the patriotic affairs in his own personality, it would be possible only because he was too permissive with the Czechs, because he has tolerated the Czech pseudo-democracy on Russian soil, and he did not use the most severe measures, including the martial law, just to prove to the Czech troops who is the highest authority in the legal sense. For this, the

admiral has paid with his life. His death is not that much a fault of the Bolsheviks than rather of the Czech politicians! One of the admirers of the activities of the Czechs who has been very close to them, wrote the following about these days:<sup>1</sup>

“The blowing up of a tunnel of the railroad around the Baykal would have caused great concern for the Czechs: they have prepared quite phantastical plans for this case. The only possibility would have been to cross mountains on the impassable roads but what could they have taken then with themselves? May be their original possession, an unharmed shaving blade and a diary, in which they would have recorded their immortal actions!”

In the service of justice we have to give the word now to the Czech delegate, Senator Dr. Krejci who was still in Siberia at that time. Naturally, like the others, he is not willing either to admit the behavior of his compatriots with respect to Russia, the Russian people and the Russian government; however, he is still not able to fully distort the truth although he makes an attempt to hide it behind resounding phrases.<sup>2</sup>

Now we can hope that we can leave Siberia because we have concluded the armistice with the Bolsheviks, This armistice agreement was signed on the 7th of February. According to this agreement anew zone was created between the Czechoslovak advance guards and the advance guards of the Bolshevik forces; similarly, the progress on the railroad line about which a Soviet commissioner and a representative of the Czech troops are supposed to look out has been defined also. The gold treasure will not be transported toward the east under any circumstance but

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1 A. Kotomkin: "About the Czechoslovak legionnaires in Siberia, 1918-1920. Recollections and documents." (Paris, 1930.) Page 136.

2 F. V. Krejci: "U sibirke armady". (Praha, 1922.) Pages 269 and 270.

it will be guarded by the contracting partners in Irkutsk, so that it should be handed over to the revolutionary executive committee after the departure of the last Czech trains from the city. As guardian of the just observation of the contract, Captain Scheid, the former Czech commissioner at Krasnojarsk will stay with the Bolshevik advance guards. On our part. Dr. Blagos, the chairman of the Czech political executive committee conducted the negotiations with the Bolsheviks.”

“Soon after this, for us so delightful news came the distressing report: Admiral Koltchak and his last prime minister, Pepeljaev were executed in Irkutsk on February 7.

“Such was the end of the man who, just a short time before, was still the head of government in Russia! Since the affairs at Omsk, the noose around his neck became increasingly tighter, during his flight toward the east every, day brought him closer to the abyss, to his unavoidable fate. His tribulations recall the memories of those of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette during the times of the revolution!”

And further: "The deaths of Koltchak and his minister happened on the same 7th of February when the Bolsheviks and the Czechs concluded their armistice agreement The execution happened on February 7, at 5 o'clock in the morning in the courtyard of the prison. According to the findings of the revolutionary committee — as it is told — there were secret associations of Koltchak's followers all over the city, that means that a large quantity of weapons and ammunition have been found. And the commander of the Siberian Army which was approaching the city, demanded Koltchak 's immediate release.

"We, Czechs shall be accused and hated because of the death of Koltchak, and the news of our breach with the 'true' Russians will go far beyond the borders...

"But what could we do? Should we have tried, we who did not have to do in Siberia any more, and who were

concerned only with the return to our own country, to risk our own future for Koltchak's life?"

And, thus, the Czechs could take everything what they had, from Siberia! -- its prize was the sacrificed blood of Koltchak! This can not be obscured even by the Czechs historians!

Take out everything!...

On the basis of documents which came upon later, I wish to throw light, very shortly, upon the correct meaning of Kreicfs words: "To take out everything."

But the Czech traitor was not satisfied with the murder of the leader. He trusted his sword also in the backs of the Russian soldiers whom he, just a short while ago, with perfidious hypocrisy, has named his "brothers".

The Czech politicians, through the innumerable uprisings, managed to deprive the White Army of its background. Right at the time when this army has spent all its energies for the prevention of the advance of the Bolsheviks.

When it became known that the proletarians in some cities, guided by the Czechs, managed to grab the power, that the trains are not transporting ammunition to the front in the future, that the Czechs had captured the governor together with the gold reserves and transported them to Irkutsk, — it has been decided that the fight against the Bolsheviks should be terminated and to march the army in eastern direction from Irkutsk. They were in great hurry, hoping, that they would be able to liberate the city from the rebels.

They thought that they would liberate Admiral Koltchak, get hold of the gold and the stored supplies. Then, north of Irkutsk, they would establish a new frontline against the Red Army.

It was not an easy task, because it had involved one of the most difficult military operations. From the west, we were threatened by the Red Army, on the other hand, in the east, all railroad junction have been occupied already by Bolshevik gangs, to prevent our retreat to

Irkutsk. These gangs were equipped excellently from the storage house of Irkutsk, and provided for with supplies. The trains were in the hand of the Czechs, and, thus, they could not be used by our army. Above all these, there was a merciless winter, and our army did not have either warm clothing nor ammunition.

Contrary to all these, our army succeeded, amidst constant fights against the Bolsheviks, to achieve a breakthrough toward the east. We had to go through many critical days, and we had impressive losses. To give a report of that, it is not the task of this book; I have wrote about that time in my book 'The White Siberia/51 On the 7th of February the advance forces of my army have occupied the station of Inokentjevsk with an assault-type attack; the station is at a distance of a few kilometers from Irkutsk. It went through so quickly that we managed to capture the Bolshevik artillery before they could have fired off a single shot.

We were working the whole night on the plan of the attack against Irkutsk. In the meantime, our main force was approaching and on the next day, our second army also. Then, like a bolt from the blue skies, came the news that the governor of Russia, Admiral Koltchak, was executed by the Bolsheviks on February 7, in the courtyard of the prison of Irkutsk.

Almost simultaneously with this news, a Czech dispatch-rider came to us, with the letter of Colonel Kreici, the commander of the II. Czech division which came to Irkutsk. In the letter they have demanded in the form of an ultimatum that, in case if we would dare to attack Glasov, the suburb of Irkutsk, they would participate in the fight on the side of the Bolsheviks.

In the war council which we called together, it turned out that the ammunition supplies of our army did not go

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I K. W. Sakharow: "Das weisse Sibirien." (München, 1925.)

beyond the 10-15 cartridges per head, and our artillery ammunition was also at the end. Most of the generals made the decision that we should, marching around Irkutsk from the south, walk across the frozen Lake Baykal and unite with the soldiers of the Hetman Semjonov in Tchita.

After this event, our hatred of the Czechs reached almost infinite proportions, because we have seen clearly that the Czechs who, some time ago, were among the first who joined the anti-Bolshevik uprising, now have turned against us with the same people.

The remnants of the hardly tested Russian Army which have endured the winter campaign, and which have sacrificed unspeakably for the rescue of the fatherland, now had to march by foot and on sleds over the snow-covered fields of Siberia. Right next to us ran the Russian railway which, however, was used by our prisoners-of-war: the deserters, the cowards and thieves, proudly and in great comfort. The Russian gave his curse once more upon the Czech, and the word "Czech" became a cussword in Siberia.

“The word ‘Czech’” became synonymous with the word “traitor” and nobody uttered it without cussing and ire”, so writes an eyewitness and participant of the fights of the White Army who, up to that time, subscribed to the poisonous ideas of the Slavophiles. This is documented by many other data which have reached us only in the beginning of 1931 from Siberia. Even the Communists who, otherwise, don't care too much about the popular expressions, pronounced the word "Czech" with lots of contempt. However, in the broad masses of the Russian people, the hatred and the contempt are so vivid and powerful, that, in their folksongs and narratives, the Czech treachery, robbery and murder became a veritable epic, for the warning of future generations.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A. Kotomkin: "Über die tschechoslovakischen Legionen in Sibirien 1918-1920." Page 135.

I shall conclude this chapter by telling about one of my personal experiences. Having fought some minor skirmishes against the Bolshevik gangs, part of my army occupied the workers' camp of Petrovsky-Savod which is behind Lake Baykal. On the third day of our stay there, a few Czech officers and soldiers came to the market to sell some Russian commissary goods. Shortly before that, I have issued an order which, under the threat of court martial, forbid our soldiers, to do such things. One of our patrols have taken the items from the Czechs. They had started to cuss and threaten them, after which our fighters have chased them away with whiplashes.

A few hours later, we got the news that the Czechs are planning to disarm the White Army camped in Petrovsky-Savod in the course of the night, as they had already done with the division of General Skipetrov. Without delay, we have put in order the security measures. Sentinels were marching up, field guards were put out and patrols were sent along the railroads line. My general staff informed the ranking officer among the Czechs that, in order to avoid all misunderstandings, no Czech is permitted to appear in the locality. Our units kept themselves in readiness the whole night.

When I inspected the troops, I have observed that not a single man of mine fell asleep. Officers, Cossacks, and soldiers, all at readiness, with their arms in their hands, were waiting for the attack by the Czechs. The atmosphere was elated, even pleasantly incited. "How nice it would be if the Czechs would attack us! These blokes are in the need of a beating! These devils were playing for quite a long time with Russia!" — so have I heard to speak my men. Although the Czechs have sent their informants to Petrovsky-Sadov, but, since these were repulsed by the sentinels, they have lost their courage and gave up their plans.

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The description of the activities of the Czech legionaries would be incomplete if we would not report about

the behavior of these armed former prisoners-of-war and military deserters against their former comrades, the other prisoners-of-war, particularly the Germans and the Hungarians. They have committed many criminal acts in that respect also, part of which has to be disclosed later. On the side of the Germans and Hungarians, the collecting and researching of this material has been started already and it can be hoped that its results would be published within a short time. On my part, I am in possession of photographs and descriptions of some individual cases, and of letters and recollections by reliable persons. These data originated with Germans, Austrians and Hungarians who were in Siberia in those years. On the basis of all these, I can declare the Czechs have committed horrible, to say, even bestial cruelties against their former prisoners-of-war comrades. Cruelties which belong to the tribunal of every cultured nation.<sup>1</sup>

Naturally, I personally did not have the opportunity to catch the Czechs in the act of committing such cruelties because there where Russian troops were around they were afraid of the punishment. In our areas, prisoners-of-war were under the protection of the laws. Only in the beginning, before the establishment of a Russian National Government, and later when the Czechs have taken hold of the railroad line, did the legionnaires dare to met out the almost unbelievably crude treatment on the German and Hungarian prisoners. The restricted scope of this book permits only the inclusion of a few extracts which I may publish from the material available to me:

Execution of Sudeten German musicians in Kabarovsk.  
(The documents were signed by an eyewitness named August Schuize who fell into captivity on the 26th of

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<sup>1</sup> It is requested that those who are in possession of notes, newspaper articles, photographs etc., that they should loan them to the author through the published of this work.

August, 1914, after the sinking of the submarine "Magdeburg".) In the beginning of 1918, the Bolsheviks were expelled by the Cossaks from Kabarovsk, and took possession of the city, then they have arrested all suspicious figures and killed many people. In the company of the Cossaks, Czech legionnaires came in the city also. One of them, Jelinek had the commander's position, and he turned out to be particularly cruel. Once there was great hue and cry, and running and rushing on the main street of the city. When S. Sch. arrived there, he has seen, how the Czechs pushed forward, scolded and stroke the band of the Sudeten German musician Parisek which used to play in the cafe "Teetasse". The Czechs, especially Jelinek, were beating the musicians with riding whips, and threatened them with execution. The attempts on the part of the Russian population of Kabarovsk to intercept for the unfortunate men, was entirely without success. They have cautioned Jelinek, that they are only innocent musicians who were playing for the benefit of the Russian Red Cross, — but that was all in vain. All praise on behalf of the musicians have worked with the Czechs like oil on fire. The Russians have heard from the Czechs shouts like: "You look out for yourselves, because you might learn it also what is a whip, and if you don't keep your mouths shot right away, we shall shoot you down. "

The crowd, among them A. Sch., have seen the behavior of the Czechs with great fright, and followed the group to the shore of the Amur river. Here the poor Germans who could barely stand on their feet any more, were lined up under a monument, and Jelinek asked them the following: "Did you want to be Czechs?" (It was a general custom that the Sudeten Germans were forced to join the Czech army.) However, the German musicians rejected the offer of the Czechs. Then Jelinek gave the order for the execution of the Germans. The musicians were rolling about in their blood. Those who were still moving, were stabbed to death with bayonets, then the massacred people

were thrown into the river. A. Sch. has added that other prisoners-of-war who were from different prisoner camps, as well as Russians in large numbers were murdered by the Czechs. "The Czechs brought out the prisoners from the camps and let them dig a pit. When the pit was deep enough, they were shot to death while working. You could write volumes about similar horrifying things. "

In addition to the reports by A. Sch., we have also the complaints of the widows of the executed musicians and of two prisoners who belonged also to the orchestra of Parisek, and only by a lucky coincidence did they escape this blood bath. These events appear the more horrible, because the Czechs wanted to get rid of their competitors this way. Namely, they themselves had a band in Kabarovsk, which, however, did not enjoy any popularity. The behavior of Jelinek and his associates is more beastly than that of the Bolsheviks because behind the legionnaires, the fathers of "democracy" were staying, who were haranguing their loud-mouthed phrases about the "eternal peace" to them. According to the testimony of several documents, the behavior of the legionnaires toward the other prisoners-of-war can be regarded only as unrestrained, infamous fury, hatred and boundless cruelty. Everywhere, they have shown their dirty, base instincts, the desire for self-enrichment, which did not shrink back even from the plundering of the murdered victims. The named Jelinek has stolen 22.000 rubels from the prisoners aid office at Krassnaja Rjetchka, near Vladivostok. Similar reasons led to the murder of five prisoners-of-war in the city of Kansk on July 30, 1918, and to the systematical persecution of the German-Russians of Samara and Orenburg who could not be saved even by the Hetman, A.J. Dutov and several Russian officials. The week of July 5-12 filled the prisoners of the Nikolsk-Ussurjsk prisoner-of-war camp with terror; the guard has led prisoners, mainly Germans and Hungarians to the office every day. There they were told to pack up all their belongings and report back in ten minutes.

In a few days, then, came the Laconic news that the name of the prisoner should be deleted from the list because he was shot down. The sword of Damokles was hanging over every prisoner's head. We are taking these from the masterfully written report of Dr. L. Ebert (Weiden, Germany) which becomes very captivating, even in its simpleness, by the truth. This extremely interesting report does not describe only individual cases and does not throw light only upon all monstrous acts, robberies, the murders committed against the prisoners-of-war and the Russians by the Czechs but it makes also an attempt to find the motivating reasons also. The Czechs, both the leaders and the common soldiers were hoping that the cruelties and murders would enhance their respect in Russia and the glory of their "Anabasis" would be ever greater.

When the Czechs settled down somewhere, they sent out their patrols in the surrounding area in order to search through the villages. If they have found Hungarian prisoners of war who were often living there with the peasants and were working for them, they have led them away, horded them together and beat them to death. The pleas of the Russian peasants did not help at all. Often it was enough that somebody just spoke Hungarian, and the Czech patrol attacked him and shot him down. Many Hungarians who have returned from Siberia to their homeland could tell about the cruelties of the Czechs.

Execution of Hungarian prisoners of war. This bloody occurrence should be cleared in all details, because the Czechs would paper over everything. They deny the murders committed by the legionnaires in Siberia in 1919 on unarmed Hungarian citizens. The Czech government is replying to the questions directed at them that everything happened in accordance with the articles of war and the laws. This is not true! In 1919, the "Legions were placed by their leaders to the innermost lines of the military supply services. In those times, there was no power which could have forced these Czech troops which were armed to their eyes to the frontline

against the Bolsheviks. All that what could be clearly documented of those tragic and bloody events, demonstrate how methodically and cruelly the Czechs behaved against their political adversaries in a foreign country.

The prisoner-of-war camp which was located in the outskirts of the city of Krasnoyarsk,, in military barracks, was named Vojenoi Gorodok. In this camp, there was the center of a "Hungarian Society", which was functioning for the promotion of cultural and charitable purposes, and which has been established under the permit of the Russian authorities. In an other part of these barracks, there was the habitation of the 31st Rifle Regiment which consisted of Siberian peasant youths. This regiment was supposed to move to the front in the beginning of August in order to fill up my army. The Bolsheviks and their associates, the "Es-Ers-e kept up a secret propaganda among the soldiers of the regiment, and wanted to persuade them, not to move to the -front but to go home, explaining these to them as if Koltchak had been destroyed already. Unfortunately, in those times, the entire military supply system in Siberia has been contaminated by this propaganda. This is documented by the historians of that period, and the busy activities of the Es-Ers, the closest friends of the Czechs in this area. The results of this propaganda turned out to be very sad-dening: in the night of July 29 to 30, 1919, an uprising broke out in the 31st Regiment. The soldiers killed several officers, and having armed themselves, they moved to the next forest to defeat those troops which came from the city to defeat the rebels. However, by early dawn, loyal Russian troops surrounded the forest, and the rebels of the 31st Regiment, laying down their arms, surrendered. The commander of the prisoner-of-war camp Vojenoi Gorodok called up the prisoners to stay quietly in their places because it was verified that they did not participate in the rebellion. As early as 8 o'clock in the morning, the military court passed its verdict on the rebels and those found guilty were executed on the same evening. However, prior to the completion of the pro-

cedures of the military court, the 12th Czech regiment marched into Vojenoi Gorodok, inspected the prisoner-of-war camp, and gave orders that everybody should go to the barracks. There, the Czech commander declared to the prisoners-of-war that they came to defend them against the Russians who are planning to punish the prisoners also for the rebellion. In fact, however, they came to call to account the Hungarians for having encouraged their fellow-countrymen to hold out on the side of their fatherland. The night of the 30th and 31st of July was spent by the Czechs with a search through the prisoner-of-war camp and the arrest of many Hungarian officers. Of these, still in the evening of the 31st, seven were executed. The arrests continued more and more frequently and the number of the Hungarian prisoners-of-war who were executed before the 31st of August reached 17.

The head of the Red Cross Mission of Switzerland who, in those times, was staying in Siberia, mentioned also this tragedy with a few words in his work:

"The events of July 30 — the defeated rebellion of the 31st regiment — have interested us for the reason because it affected also the prisoner s-of-war inasmuch they have been accused also of it In Omsk, the French Chief Commissioner De Martell tried to communicate it to us with the following words: "The prisoner s-of-war are practicing bolshevism!" We, however, know the way of thinking of the prisoner s-of-war who cam" to their senses after their many sufferings, rather than to believe their participation in the conspiracy."

Dr. Montandon wrote a list also of the Hungarian prisoners of war who were murdered by the Czechs: this list was made us available together with two documents: (1) The report of the Czechoslovak commander in Krasnojarsk numbered 3262, of August 1919, to the management of the prisoner-of-war camp, in which he declares that the Hun-

garian prisoners were not executed for the rebellion but for a public notice saying that they should fight for the state borders of the old Hungary. (2) The communication Nr. 8030/D of November 7, 1919, from the representative of the Czechoslovak government to the Royal Danish Vice Consul at Irkutsk in which the Czech makes the same statement, but he also makes the insinuation that, supposedly, Hungarians participated also in the mass murder.

The list of the names of the persons murdered on the 31st of July, 1919 is the following:

1. Dr. Geza Pely, chairman of the Association
2. First Lieutenant Lajos Szekely, vice-chairman of the Association
3. Second Lieutenant Istvan Szava, secretary
4. First Lieutenant Emil Fekete, member
5. Dr. Gyula Katona, member
- 6.- Private Janos Papp
7. Private Gyorgy Pawel
8. Cadet Albert Gáspar
9. Ensign Dr. Dezső Forgacs
10. Cadet Artur Dukesz
11. Cadet Dr. Alajos Molnar
12. Corporal Dezső Krassovszky
13. Ensign Lajos Kelemen
14. Cadet Bela Skoff
15. Corporal Sandor Zseder
16. Private Jenó Say
17. Ensign Karoly Szeker

Let us satisfy with this short but characteristic extract, and let us return to the treason on Russia and to her pillaging by the Czechs.

## The loot and its transportation

After the imprisonment of the Governor, the Czechs posted special guards to the railway cars which contained the gold treasure of Russia. When the gold treasure arrived to Irkutsk, it was discovered that the Czechs plundered a wagon entirely which contained packing coffers filled with special, five rubel gold coins. The nominal value of the plundered gold was more than twenty million gold rubel.<sup>1</sup> The rest of the gold was transferred by the Czechs in Irkutsk against a receipt to the "Political Center" that is, to three swindlers who got there with the assistance of the Czechs. The "Political Center" took over the gold left by the Czechs without having counted it.

The Czechs, prior to their departure from Irkutsk, took hold of the sum found in the state treasury and of the printing blocks of the Imperial printing office, in order to enable themselves to print banknotes. This took up their time on their journey, down to Vladivostok. They were making paper money, mainly 1000 rubel banknotes.

Major General ...made the following remarks in his work:<sup>2</sup> „The Czechoslovak authorities (and this is verified by documents) have confiscated Russian money in various denominations in the Imperial Bank of Irkutsk. The sum could not be determined exactly. The banknotes were packed in bags and transported eastward on mail carrier wagons. These bags which were filled with money weighted several metric centners. The Czechs, during this requisition paid special attention mainly to the recently issued 200 rubel lottery loan tickets and the 5000 rubel stock bonds of the Imperial Bank. They have inflated the money market in Karbin to such a degree that they have created a veritable

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1 "Die tschechischen Argonauten in Sibirien." Page 12.

2 "Tschechen von SR", published in the newspaper "Djelo Rossi". Tokyo, 1920. Page 10.

stock market panic there. In addition, in the vicinity of Irkutsk, they have robbed the disarmed armored train of General Skipetrov of 8000 rubels, taking it with themselves as spoils of war. “

The Czechs, on all railroad stations where they traveled through, nailed out copies of their contract made out with the Bolshevik commissar. This agreement contained not only their obligation to extradite Admiral Koltchak but also that they should disarm the White Army and extradite the White officers and volunteers. In addition, they have fixed the distance between the last Czech train and the first train of the Red Army then the Czechs promised to leave the railway, the bridges and the stations intact. Finally, they have agreed that the Czechs will provide ammunition and weapons for the Bolshevik gangs. Accordingly, the Czechs have kept them hidden in their trains, in addition to the stolen treasures, weapons and ammunition for the Bolsheviks who” with the support of the Czechs, organized themselves in Trans-Baikalia. The Czechs have systematically transferred the mail of the Bolsheviks from European Russian to Karbin and Vladivostok, and provided refuge, in their tightly guarded railroad cars, for Bolshevik agents and commissars. It is a proven fact that they have transported the notorious Communist Vilensky, the leader of the military operations against the Hetman Semjonov and the future commissar of the entire Baikal region this way.

Those Russian officers, volunteers and their families who, for some reasons were cut off from the army which hastened to the liberation of Admiral Koltchak, were in an unspeakably difficult situation. These unfortunate people, mainly the sick, the elderly, women and children, were forced to travel that way on sleds, separated from each other. Well, there were no Russian trains at all, the entire railroad system was in the hand of the Czechs. Many of these passengers turned to the Czech officers and trusting in their humaneness, they have begged them to transport them further on the train. Naturally, the Czechs had enough space, because,

we should not forget that the 50.000 Czechs had 20.000 waggons at their disposal. It would not have cost anything to them if they would have take a few of these unfortunate people who were cut off from the Russian army. However, in most cases, their requests were rejected in a cynical way. And those who were taken in by them, they were robbed of everything and, often they were raped by them. To be able to travel in heated wagons, the Czechs demanded 5-15 thousand rubels from the Russians. They have taken away all the jewelry from the women, even the last ones, which were left with them. This high price still did not secure the physical security of the refugees, neither that they would really arrive to Trans-Baikalia, where they would not have been in the danger of being attacked by the Bolsheviks. Major General ...reports about an event which happened at the railroad station of Olovjannaja, as follows:<sup>1</sup>

"From a Russian train which rumbled full speed across the railroad bridge of the Onon river, three bags were thrown into the river. When they were fished out, people found out that they contained bodies of Russian women who were taken aboard by the Czechs, were raped, then killed and thrown in the river. It is impossible to fix the number of those who were treated similarly by the Czechs in Siberia.

At the station of Jablonova, in Mandzhuria, during the time of the Czechs evacuation, Tchunchu robbers appeared with the demand that a lumber company representative should pay to them 300 yens without delay. The head of the company did not even want to hear of such a demand, when the leader of the Tchunchus told it to him in a courteous way that a Czech transport train which just passed through the region offered to them two machine guns with the necessary ammunition, but the Czechs are demanding prompt payment, and they are very much desirous to buy the machine guns. Accordingly, the head of the company could not help but give

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<sup>1</sup> "Die tschechischen Argonauten in Sibirien", page 21.

in, so writes the number 13 issue of the newspaper "Djelo Rossii in 1920. The robbers got the money and purchase the machine guns.

After the treasons committed on the Russian government, the Russian army and Admiral Koltchak, the first Czech troops arrived to the neutral territory of the Eastern Chinese Railroad and have reached Karbin. An eyewitness wrote the following:<sup>1</sup> "Karbin offered an interesting view in the days of the arrival of the Czech troops. Their appearance was marked by the strong decline of the price of the Russian gold rubel. The Chinese money changers have figured that the market would be saturated by the Russian gold and they have made some gains for themselves. The money changing offices were filled Czechs who have changed the Russian gold by the kilogram into yens and dollars. In the streets, a very vivid business life started with all sort items, gramophones, sewing machines, golden pins and bracelets. And, on the stations, they have sold thoroughbred horses and all sorts of coaches on a large scale... "

"Unquestionably, the value of the gold and gold coins fell in those months in the neutral Eastern Chinese region to such a degree because the Czechs have brought the gold coin also to the market in enormous quantities, in order to change them into American and Japanese currencies. The Chinese money agents who are inundating every Chinese city, became uneasy by this influx of the gold, and, at first, they believed that they are confronted with some counterfeiting action. After they became convinced that the gold is real, however, they have purchased it at a low price."

Particularly highly valued treasures were on those trains, on which high ranking army commanders, political bosses and the closest assistants of Masaryk and Benes arrived. The Czech genius produced its most beautiful flowers in them. It took a long time till the last trains arrived

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<sup>1</sup> "Djelo Rossii (Tokyo, 1920. No. 14.)

also because the 20.000 waggons took unquestionably long time to be processed.

Finally, the Czechs have left Siberia! But what a metamorphosis they had to go through! How they have returned to Europe! With money bags filled with Russian gold, foreign stock certificates and all sorts of treasures. The poor prisoners-of-war, pained with hunger, became well-fed "heroes". Having arrived to Vladivostok, they went aboard ships which have been determined for them by the Allies from time, to time. There was nobody anymore who could have interfered on behalf of the Russians. The patriotic forces were either bankrupt or were forced to hide, the remnants of the White Army participated in the difficult retreat across Siberia or in the defense of Trans-Baikalia. In Vladivostok, the power was in the hands of the half-Bolsheviks. These people were very much similar to the Czechs. They have helped the Czechs to make their loot complete, but they did not forget about themselves either.

"They are stealing private property and privately owned goods, they are dividing them among themselves and among the Czechs, or sell them, with the help of the Czechs, under value on foreign ships, with the excuse that they will send them to Soviet-Russia." This is the way how the press of the Far-East has written in those days.<sup>1</sup>

Not only that Russian property could not be defended against the Czechs but it was not possible to prepare any list of it. If somebody had tried it was done by Russians who did not have any official character, and, thus, they remained incomplete. The Czechs have calculated with this, and they were convinced that they would remain unpunished. Exactly because of that they have removed the chief witness, Admiral Koltchak.

The documentary proofs of this unheard-of, never before experienced robbery are coming to light again and again.

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<sup>1</sup> "Djelo Rossii". (Tokyo, 1920.) Number 10.

We have received the very interesting news from former prisoners of war that the Czechs have stolen the famous mammoth skeleton from the museum of Irkutsk. A skeleton of a mammoth! This news was brought to us by those Hungarians who have put it on a ship which has been then unloaded in Triest.

One more of the proofs. One of the persons well informed about those events wrote the following: "Was told by the Danish consul Gavardo in the spring of 1925, in a port at the Adriatic Sea, that: 'His home was plundered by the Czech legions. He initiated a court action against that gang and in the follow-up of that case he had to travel to Prague. But here comes the most interesting part of it Before the high ranking Czech official with whom he has tried to speed up the proceedings, the following painful incident happened:

Consul Gavardo declared that his complaints may not be so unfounded after all, since the Czech official himself is standing with a rug which came from his home in Russia. And, to convince the official who got quite embarrassed he has shown to him a few original photographs. And, he managed to discover the most valuable pieces of his home in the National Museum in Prague after a long search. "1

The "Djelo Rossii, in its number 10, of 1920, published two interesting proofs of the customs of the Czechs:

The Russian American Rubber Factory Cooperative 'Treugolnik' in Vladivostok to the main control station of the Czech Army.

"On the 25th of April, 1918, 32 sealed freight-cars were sent from Petrograd, which were loaded with automobile tires and which were the property of Treugolnik. The transport has reached the station of Tchichma in the month of May, 1918, in the vicinity of Ufa, right at the time when the Czechs moved against the city. Since the Czech army did not have enough auto tires, a Czech unit confiscated the entire trans-

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1) Staff Major Geza dell Adami: "Erlösung aus Sibirien."

port, transported it to Tcheljabinsk, and from there further, to Yekaterinburg addressing it to the Automobile Department. When it arrived to Yekaterinburg, only 28 waggons contained tires and they were taken over by Czech automobile units. The contents of the other four waggons have been used up up along the road by Czech troops.

“The 28 loaded waggons have been transported by the Czechs to Kurgan in December, 1918, where it remained till March, 1919. In April, 1919, they were transported to Sima.' Here the transport was packed in crates and sent piecemeal to Vladivostok, addressed to the Automobile Station of the Czech troops. On March 1, 1920, 18 waggons arrived to Vladivostok and from there, on the ship Madovask they were transported to Czechoslovakia together with the Czech troops. The following 7 waggons, with the same contents, arrived to the automobile department of the Czech troops to Vladivostok, on March 21. Here they were ready to be transported 'together with the Czech troops on the next ship. The last three waggons are still on their way to Vladivostok.

"We are referring to the law which states that, in case of a civil war the domestic transports which have been requisitioned by one of the fighting participants do not constitute any spoils of war but should be returned to the owner, or, if for some particular reasons the fighting participants should have used them up, the owner should be compensated with a sum correspondent to the value of the goods. In this case, the owner was the Treugolnik cooperative which has its branch in Vladivostok. Since we are representing the interests of the company, and the confiscation of the above mentioned transport, as well as the intent, to send it abroad, is, by now, known to you also, we are turning to the highest supervisory station of the Czech army, to return the goods which are still in Vladivostok, back to the firm, and, for the goods already transported abroad, pay out the corresponding sum. The invoice is enclosed. Corresponding to the detailed data of the 28 transport goods, the value of the transport, on the 1918

price level, and counting from the day of the confiscation, are 38,692,815 rubels. — Vladivostok, March 28, 1920"

And the reply: "The Supreme Supervisory Station of the Czech Army in Russia, number 457. Vladivostok, May 4, 1920. to the Treugolnik Russian-American Rubber Factory Cooperative, in Vladivostok

"In reply to your letter of March 28, we have the pleasure to inform you that, to our regret, we are not able to recognize the validity of your claim for 38,692,815 rubels. There is no proof whatsoever regarding the matter if the above mentioned 32 waggons of rubber tires were in fact the possession of the Treugolnik firm on the day of the requisition by the Czech army.

"Our searches brought in the result that the entire transport was Russian military property which has been lost during the fights. The fact if the Reds acquired the rubber stockpile cannot be rightfully doubted by us, much less could we start an investigation. Particularly, since all rubber materials related to automobiles came under requisition by the state during the war years and the above mentioned transport came, to all probabilities, in the hands of the military administration sooner already.

"Captain Schimunski, chief of the Supreme Control Station of the Czech Army in Russia."

Despite the above reply, one of the consuls of the Allied Powers still forbade the transfer of the rubber tires in Vladivostok to the Czech ships. Yes, because in this case it affected not only Russian interests but also foreign interests since the Treugolnik was a Russian American company. The subterfuge of the Czech captain is similar to the story of that "golden watch friend", who, after he was caught in the act of stealing, he demanded the sale's slip from the owner of the watch, as a documentary proof that the watch was really his property.

As long as the Czech trade "geniuses" did not hurt the interests of the foreigners, the Allies tolerated their activities

undisturbed. Only a few honestly thinking representatives of them treated the Czech's actions with contempt.

Let us see two more material proofs from these times. One is the reply of the chief of staff of the Czech army to the inquiry of the Russian government regarding the fate of the 20 Puds (1 Pud is 16 kilograms) silver which were transferred by the Yennissei Cossacks to the Czechs for the purpose of safeguarding.

Reply of the Chief of Staff of the Czechoslovak Army in Russia. On the 27th of March, 1920, Tchita Station. To all commanders, respectively their deputies of all armed forces of the Eastern Russian Army.

"I was instructed by the commander of the Czechoslovak Army in Russia to enlighten Your Excellency regarding the following matters:

"The silver which is mentioned by Your Excellency in your letter to the command of the Army numbered 1957 and dated, March 23, will be, according to my telegraphic order numbered 357, turned over by the commander of the 2nd Heavy Artillery Division without delay.

"Considering, however, that this train troop is now progressing along the Zizikar-Karbin line and would travel without stopping to Vladivostok, I request you to kindly determine the place where you wish to receive the silver as well as the names of the gentlemen to whom the silver should be transferred. First Lieutenant Wschetitschka, countersigned by Lieutenant Kasakitzky. "

Telegram!

"Zizikar-Karbin. To the Commander of the 2nd Artillery Division. Tchita on the 27th of March.

"It is the order of the Commander of the Army that the 20 Puds of silver which were transferred to you by the deputy hetman of the Yennissei Cossack in Tulun, should be returned by you. I shall inform you by telegram about the place of the transfer and the names of the persons receiving it.

"Nr. 357. Chief of Staff of the Czech Army, First Lieutenant Wschetitschka. "

Regarding the practical outcome of this correspondence I include here the following from the book of the Russian officer who was mentioned several times already: 1

The silver disappeared without any trace, nobody knows where. It is a fact that the Cossacks have never received it back. Who is eating now with the silver spoons of the Cossacks, is difficult to tell. "

During my stay at Prague I have tried to satisfy my curiosity: they are talking all sorts of things in the world all over, I would like to know where all the spoons went.

The results did not let me wait too long. In a few days, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the green automobile which was named in Prague generally "the green Anthony" appeared in the front of my shack where I was living in Gornich Mokropsach during my stay in Bohemia. There stepped out from it three mysterious figures, and an overweight gendarme with a gun. I recognized the gendarme immediately, his peculiarly sounding name could not be forgotten. He was quite often at my relatives. He was served with all sorts of goodies, and he got warmed up to them so much as if he would be one of their relatives. So, this gendarme stood outside of my door, and the three guys started to search through my room. They have searched my meager possessions of an emigrant from top to bottom. This lasted for two hours.

Finally, I have asked them: "What are you looking for, Panove?"

"My dear, " he answered, "you are negotiating with the Hungarians. You want to take away Carpathian Ruthenia from us and hand it over to the Hungarians!"

"I am asking you, Panove, for the sake of entertainment, about what you are looking for here, I am very serious... "

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1 Alexander Kotomkin: "Uber die tschechoslowakischen Legionare in Sibirien" Paris, 1930. Pages 146-147.

"We are also", they have replied, "we are going through your things, we have heard all sorts of things about you..."

They have left with me a sheet of paper on which it was written that they have not found anything with me. I have kept this writing for memory's sake.

"After this search, I have begun to get interested in Carpatho-Russia and in a summer I made a trip there also. I did not regret it having gone there. My panslavism began to die off in me, but my Russia became the more precious to me!"

The Vladivostok newspaper "Slovo" gives the following picture of the liquidation of the Czech "Anabasis": "In the 'Rotten Corner' (name of part of the city of Vladivostok) the Liquidation Committee of the Czechs seized a few enormously big house blocks, former locomotive workshop halls. It is a miracle what you can find here: cars, sewing machines, telegraphic instruments and machinery, in short: everything from the stickpins to automobile which are described in the catalogue of the Japanese firm 'Iso Export and Comp.' The difference is only that the Iso Export is an impeccable firm which enjoys excellent reputation. The Czech Liquidation Committee was also great with respect cleanliness but naturally only from the Czech point of view!"

Very characteristic is the following: The Czech committee let the labels of every weighing machines painted over in order to prevent anybody from seeing how far these weighing machines have traveled with the Czech army. The Russian train control committee has discovered during its investigations the mark "Perm Train" in the label of one of the train's weighing machines; on other weighing machines they found the markings "Siberian Train", "East-Chinese Train", "Tajga Storage Facility", "Perm Storage Facility", etc. The Czechs had to release such objects with labels like these. However, in cases when the robbery was not so evident the Russian committee could not reclaim anything.

It is also interesting how the Czech Army got involved in the wholesale and small-scale commerce. They were selling macaroni and flour by kilogram and pud, they have written out invoices and receipts but they have refrained from putting their stamps on them.

**The newspaper "Russki Golos" wrote the following:**

“The Czechs were living in the first and second class cars of the trains while they were waiting for the arrival of the ships. When they have left these, it turned out that they have stolen every mirror, every piece made of copper, even the copper hooks, the linoleum cover from the walls, the covers from the seats, even the horse hair stuffing. With one word, everything what could have any value was stolen by them. After the return of the trains, the Russian Railroad Directorate could not do more than to make a list of the stolen items. “

Private persons have tried to protest in the anti-Bolshevik press of Vladivostok and Karbin against these robberies which have remained unpunished, consequently some cases managed to reach the public. However, the Czech simply did not take any notice of them, or they have extricated themselves, so that they, in fact, documented what has happened.

So, for example, the Russian administration gave sugar for the Czechs on credit. At the time of their departure, they have presented them with the bill which made 648.796 yens. The Czechoslovak general staff gave the following reply:

"We do not deny it that we have received food stuff from the Russian authorities, however, we are not in the position at the present to begin with the necessary investigations because our Quartermaster Generals's Department is on the move. The first troop transport which would reach Prague, will present the entire correspondence relative to the matter. Before we do not receive the orders from Prague, we would not be able to pay." Naturally, no instructions relevant to the matter ever arrived from Prague.

It is not without interest what the former boss of the evacuation, Dr. Rase is writing about the wickedness and trickery of the Czechs:<sup>1</sup>

"One should imagine that when we started with the organization of our army in Russia, we ourselves were prisoners of war, and, as it was told by Semjonov so correctly, 'naked and without trousers' This is the pure truth. Our only possession were our two hands and our head. "

But, after three years, when the Czechs have left Vladivostok, they had acquired, on their own, the following properties:

They had to rent 12 foreign ships to be able to transport their shipments of goods. They were buying a separate oceangoing ship, the "Legia" for themselves because they did not want to entrust them with alien hands. In every port where they put anchor they were buying enormous staples of foodstuffs, even they were in the position that they could transport 14 percent of their army without any material support by the Allies.

They have founded the "Bank of the Legionnaires", the founding capital of which reached 70 million crowns of the good, old currency. Today, this bank is one of the richest financial institutions of the republic which has built big buildings with large sized cellars for the depositors.

Dr. Rase serves us with the following information:

"We are asked often where did the Bank of the Legionnaires have got so much money ?" And there is the answer without delay: "Naturally, from the looted Russian gold."

"We, however, can give a more simple answer.

"We were circa 60.000 volunteers in Siberia who have received our keep and pay under the order of General Stefanik. For sake of foresight, and for the reason that some individuals should not be in the position to spend away their money, the money for the keep and the pay was not given out in full but was kept back by our financial administration. In

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. R. Rase: "Evakuace". Prague, 1923. Page 24.

order that we should be able to picture how much these payments were, let me mention that a colonel, the chief of a department of the ministry of war, has received, calculated in golden crowns, 18 crowns per month, and has received the same provisions as the common soldiers. On the scale of the 1919 prices, a colonel could buy for himself just a goose on the market in Vladivostok without potatoes and cabbage. On the other hand, a captain could buy only a goose breast, and, how much a common soldier could buy nobody knows.

The sum which we have taken from ourselves, or, to say it correctly what has been deducted from our pay, they have written voluntarily to the credit of our bank. Accordingly, the 70 millions constitute the sum total of the payments which have been deducted from the provision and the pay and which were paid out to us for the year of 1919. In the case of the 35.000 volunteers who have purchased stocks from that bank, a total of 2000 crowns fell to every purchaser for a year. This is really not much, and our people at home have saved much more in the year of 1919, than we did, and quite surely, under more convenient circumstances. "

To whom he has addressed this childish and hypocritical verbiage, we do not know. He may have tried to close the mouths of those who had enough guts to remember the truth and to make questions about it. Or did he want to silence one of the ministers of finance, Dr. Rase, who rejected to pay out the old "remainders" of the legionnaires, and who, for this has been persecuted by the leftist Czech press.<sup>1</sup>

It is, however, to compare the woes of Dr. Rase with the explanations of another Czech, Dr. Kreici which are related to the tea sets of the Czech quartermaster's department which could have been enough for the entire army.

In those days, there were many jokes which, with their pessimistic humor, perpetuated the memory of the robberies of the Czechs.<sup>2</sup> In the journal "Blocha" (The "Flea", no. 5)

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1 A. Kotomkin: "Über die tschechoslowakischen Legionare in Sibirien". Page 155.

2 A. Kotomkin: "Über die tschechoslowakischen Legionare in Sibirien". Page 152.

it says: "Czech Book-keeping: the Italian book-keeping was discontinued because the Czech book-keeping is more advantageous. By the Czech book-keeping a soldier can buy for a silver rubel a waggon load of June banknotes, and, on the top of it, he will get two and a half rubels in gold. " — "Explanation by Dr. Girsá: We love the Russians very much. In the Carpathian Mountains, we were running toward them with our arms held high. We were traveling very much in Russia up to here for which we received our salaries. For this salary, we were buying leather and wool. It went on very simply. We caught the Russians, pulled their skins and there was the leather. Then we have cropped the skin and we had the wool. And we are very satisfied and the Russians love to have us around. After we have left them, they are calling out after us — Nazdar! — and they stay at home. "

Reliable data about the evacuation of the Russian areas by the Czechs and the transport of the transport of the material goods, came to us only from Czech sources. An accurate picture about the home transport of these "Argonauts" and of the stolen "golden fleece" can be developed only when we shall be able to conduct some research in person in Vladivostok.

Regarding these searches, great service can be rendered by those German-Hungarians and Austrians who were, in those times, eyewitnesses to some events in Vladivostok.

According to the compilation by Dr. Rase, the Czechs have utilized, only for themselves and for their possessions, the following: 1

"24 steamships which were secured for them by the Allies, 12 steamships which were rented by the legionnaires themselves, that is, for Russian money. The steamship name "Legia" which has been purchased by the legionnaires for the same money, concluded several trips between Triest and Vladivostok. The "Legia" was used mainly for the transport

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1 Dr. R. Rase: "Evakuace". Prague, 1923. Pages 13-20.

of such goods which they did not wish to put in the care of any other ship. The Czechs are not providing any data about the material transport, we find notes only about the troops transported back home from Siberia.

Troopers..(enlisted men).....	53.455
Officers and military administrators .....	3.004
Other prisoners of war (fellow-country-men)	6.714
Women (military and civilian).....	1.716 ,
Children (military and civilian).....	717
Foreigners.....	1.935
<u>Others.....</u>	<u>189</u>
Total.....	67.730

The chronicler of the evacuation describes the embarking and the departure as follows:<sup>1</sup>

„It happened only once that the ship ready to leave had to be late, owing to the mistake by the passengers, by one hour. Already on the trip to Vladivostok, the people have been prepared for the embarking, they have received their medical examination, their passports, and they have packed their luggage's and belongings. The people on the ships were distributed according to the availability of the number of the bedding capacity. Everybody who was started off on the trip, has received a ticket, and, prior to the embarking, it was controlled strictly that nobody should enter the ship who did not have a permit to do so. It happened only once that two or three Russians managed to smuggle themselves on the ship but these were put on shore in the next port. “

The so-called "cargo" is written up by the Czechs in a nebulous way. It was supposed to consist of personal luggage which could be transported by every passenger with himself. Regarding the guns, military equipment, and other materials, the only explanation which is available, is that everything was purchased for money, everything was paid for, etc., with

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. R. Rase: "Evakuace". Prague, 1923. Pages 22-23.

money according to the going price rate in Siberia. It is a fact that this money fell day by day so fast that, finally, it became completely worthless. We have already mentioned it several times what this Czech "cargo" was in reality!

The most important source materials, of course, are in the hands of the Czechs and they will hardly be get out from there.

This is why all Russians and all former prisoners of war should give their respective documents in the same hands in order to keep the valuable materials from becoming lost!

It would be important to know about the activities of the government offices and the various societies of those times which are related to these matters. So, for example, we see that the parliament of the shoreline areas (Narodnoje Sobranije) addressed innumerable questions to the government because of the ship "Legia": is it true that this ship would leave in a few days to Europe, carrying enormous cargos which are actually the property of the shoreline areas? Is it true that, for example, a cable railway of the length of 22 versts which came from the forests and radio stations of the shoreline areas is on the ship? Furthermore, that the ship is loaded to the brim with all sorts of foodstuffs, toiletries, leather, shoes and soaps? Is it true that the more than 80.000 scythes, 100 sewing machines, 30 steam plows and many other items, their value totaling about 3 million gold rubels which were stored at the custom's office at Vladivostok, they have transferred urgently to the ship "Legia"?

The administration of the Primorsk district was in those times in the hands of the Revolutionary Democratic Party which was friendly with the Czechs and still is in existence as if it would be at home. This so-called "Russian authority" had no other reason whatsoever to exist in this world, only for the purpose to render assistance to the Czechs with the transport of the stolen Russian property.

The representatives of the Czech Republic were simply quiet when, because of the robberies and thieveries, accusa-

tions were made, even in the press. The newspaper, name "Vjetcher" published the following article which, however like the others, remained unanswered:<sup>1</sup>

“The ship ‘Legia’ is loading state properties all the time. In the past days, mainly on Saturday, the 19th of March, when there were some inquiries made in the matter of these cargos, they have been urging the work of the loading. It should have been finished today but the ‘Legia’ is still accepting goods which constitute state property in the weight of many thousands of puds. “

How "sophisticated" sound the words of Dr. Rase about the importance of the ship of the legionnaires:

"This is the first time in the history of Czechoslovakia that a Czechoslovak flag waves over the ocean. Our ship "Legia" popularizes the name and the news of our young state and its merchant people. And, this way, the "Legia" assumed the same function which was carried out earlier by our legionnaires abroad. “

"Just as our heroic deeds were inscribed deeply in the history of mankind, our ship 'Legia' is keeping up the tradition in those circles also which are valuing a people highly only when it is able to sustain itself in the world empire of commerce also!"

The foreigners — as I have told it already — have observed the looting of Russia by the Czechs without doing a thing, the Czechs who became out of the poor, hungry fellows of the fairy tales well-heeled, even rich people. Very exceptionally, some foreign newspapers have published some articles about these horrible actions. So, for example, the British newspaper "Japan Advertiser" wrote the following on May 1, 1920: "After the passenger liner 'President Grant' which has left yesterday, there remained still another 16.000 Czechs who must leave. Since the tonnage has not been determined yet for them, it is hardly possible that this

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<sup>1</sup> The Russian newspaper "Vjetcher". Vladivostok, 1921. March 18, 19, 20 and 21.

transport would be coming up for processing prior to the first of June. It was proposed that they should be transported on Japanese ships because the Czechs who are always underfoot, are causing lots of trouble and misunderstandings. The "President Grant" in addition to the 5500 Czechs, is carrying enormous quantities of gold, silver, red copper, machinery, sugar, and all sorts of other goods and stolen materials which were brought by the Czechs from Siberia. "

The Czech minister at Tokyo, Pergler, an associate of Masaryk, could not avoid any more to give a reply to this article, and he gave the following classical reply which was published by the "Japanese Advertiser" as well as by the Russian press in the east. This reply is published by me here in its entirety without having done the slightest change in it:

"The newspapers of April 28 are publishing a news item from Vladivostok about the return of the Czech army from Siberia and the departure of the American ship 'President Grant' " They write: "The 'President Grant' had taken with itself 5500 Czechoslovaks, as well as immense quantities of gold, silver, red copper, machinery, sugar, equipments and other looted goods which have been brought by the Czechs from Siberia. The newspapers are publishing these news under the following headlines: 'The Czechs are bringing their loots from Siberia', and, "The Czechs are looting Siberia." Under 'loot' we understand things which are in contact with war and lawlessness, thus, the Czechoslovak soldiers are accused of grave crimes. In my opinion, (that is, in Pergler's opinion), the duty of a diplomat includes the protection of the good name of his country and of his fellow citizens. This duty has a particularly high importance when it is about the fame of an army which has been admired by the entire world up to now, as, in this particular case, the Czechoslovak army in Siberia. It is a fact that the Czechoslovaks have brought away, on an American ship, their goods which they have purchased on their money savings in Siberia. The Czechoslovaks had to spend a very long time in Siberia. Their

soldiers are all educated people, academicians, or educated, intelligent workers, or craftsmen. As soldiers, they have received a certain pay. Instead of having squandered away this money, they have put it together, and have founded a large trading company, as well as several noted banks, such as the Bank of the Czech Legionnaires. “

The proceeds were growing according to the conditions in Russia because the pay was calculated in francs but paid out according to the daily rate in Russian money. The soldiers have purchased large quantities of supplies which they are taking now to their fatherland. It was especially important in the interest of the textile industries in their homeland, that they should buy up large quantities of wool, and they did this with such a dedication that, in last October, a Russian farmer has recommended to them to moderate their wool purchases. All these serve as clear proofs that the purchases were legal and correct among the general trading practices. How well they have used their pay, although it was very small, is documented by the fact that, in 1918, they have subscribed to a loan of 5,000.000 francs for the Czechoslovak National Council, for the benefit of the army. ”

Voila, the reply of a Czech diplomat!

He is talking in a language quite understandable: he is documenting in words and between the lines also what has been brought up against the Czechs. However, Mr. Pergler is forgetting that not only the Czech soldiers but also the Czech "Politicians" are accused of similar crimes. Mr. Pergler by covering up the reality, became an accomplice of his guilty compatriots.

We shall see it in the following chapters that not only Mr. Pergler but also his high ranking superiors have committed similar sins.

A characteristic story is told by A. Kotomkin whom I have quoted several times:1

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1 A. Kotomkin: "Über die tschechoslowakischen Legionare in Sibirien in 1918-1919." Pages 147-148.

"In an evening when I was at General Sirowy "s in an official matter and I was just looking at the portrait of Masaryk which was put in my hand by the general, and which had warm lines of recommendation to him, dedicating it 'to the friend of the Czech people and its army\ a mounted dispatch runner stopped in the front of the railroad waggon. Soon after, he opened the door of the car section, with an official package in his hands. The adjutant, Captain Skatzel wanted to take the parcel from him, but the honest Russian soldier emphasized that he can give it only to the commander-in-chief of the Czech army in person.

General Sirowy took the parcel from the messenger who, after saluting him, departed.

The general opened the package and some silver coins fell out from it. With his face changing its color from pale to red, Sirowy counted the contents of the package and, in a stuttering voice, he said: "This is how the Russians are paying me"

In the letter enclosed with the package I could read the following: "To the commander of the Czech Army, General Sirowy. "The officers and soldiers of the two workers' brigades of Ishevsk and Votkinsk are sending thirty silvers to General Sirowy, the blood money for the betrayal!" And the signatures followed...

## **The Czech network of lies**

A. Kotomkin who later, after the collapse in Siberia, has been residing in Czechoslovakia, characterizes the Czech literature of the "Anabasis" with the following words:

"The tone of self-praise which takes up Homeric proportions, characterizes the books written about the Czech legionnaires, particularly if they were authored by legionnaires. In Prague, the legionnaires have an immensely rich publishing house, named "Pamjatnik Odboje" which they have founded while they were still in Siberia. As I turned over the pages of its exquisite catalogue, it caught my attention that there was no hungry newspapermen, little poet or other penpusher who had not reported about his return from Siberia in at least one "work" This "literature" is very varied: reports by aid-de-camps, reminiscences, diaries, memorabilia, sketches, poems, dramatic scenes, poetic narratives etc. The people are reading and admiring these authors who are praising themselves. And there is one more thing which one has to admire: everything is written in that Klukva (forest berry) style as we have learned it in the European literature however, the little forest berry grew here into a great, dreamy forest, and, while reading, we are shrinking back from it.."

"For example, here did I get acquainted the first time with a Russian custom: that the peasants, out of plain hospitality, have offered their daughters for a night to the legionnaires. " And further: "God save us not to accept the offer. The father would have been, very probably, deeply hurt, since we would have offended a long standing custom!" In the school textbooks they are writing about the legionnaires that their glory is comparable only to those of Alexander of Macedonia and Julius Caesar. The admiration of the legionnaires and the high praise of their deeds have been kept up strongly in the first ten years of the Czechoslovak Republik.

We are confronted here not only with self-praise but with the most shameful besmirching of the Russian people. It is enough to read the statements about the patriarchal Russian peasant. But what do we have to expect from a common legionnaire, a simple Czech, when his "leaders", the creators and builders of his country are showing him the bad example?

Masaryk and Benes, in their memoirs, are not only papering over the truth but they are loudly praising their horrendous deeds. It appears virtually impossible that the leaders of the Czech conspiracy would not have known about it what the legionnaires had done in Siberia, what they had looted and how cowardly they have behaved themselves.

Benes did not take the trouble to provide some overview in his book of the activities of the Czech army corps in Russia. He is talking only about the great disappointment of the Czechs in the beginning of October, 1918, because the Allies did not send the promised supportive troops to the Volga, and he mentions that the Czechs have regarded the cause of anti-bolshevism for lost already, and that the election of Koltchak on November 18, 1918, had made it impossible for them to unite with the Russians. From that time on, the Czechs were only waiting, and made preparations for their transportation back to their fatherland.

Otherwise, this unclear and, as it appears, intentionally distorted description sound as follows:<sup>1</sup>

"This is the short history of our Anabasis to the end of 1918, without any marginal episodes and without its beautiful, romantic radiance. The Anabasis is a beautiful, important and admirable thing from the human and military point of view, and, from the political point of view, it was characteristic for our struggle. Our plain soldiers in Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia (?) have joined the Austro-Hungarian army, then they went over to the Russians, then, after long lasting and sufferings, they have joined, in the turmoil of the revolution, some promptly established, voluntary military organizations. For a while, they were fighting against those from whom they actually started out, then, under the guidance of their great leader, they were marching through the endless Russia and Siberia, then slowly, after

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid. Page 553.

all imaginable persecutions, they have captured the 8000 kilometer long railroad line, and occupied a practically unconquerable region, in order to arrive, at the end of their globe-trotting journey, to the European war theatre, and to fight in time for the liberty of their nation. “

"Virtually, they have called the attention of the entire nation upon themselves by the fact that they have pushed obstacles in the way of the Bolshevik system, which, without this, could have caused difficulties for the Allies. Although they could not arrive in time to the European war theatre but with their entering the field at the other end of the world, and with their admirable, romantic experiences they have served excellently everybody but first of all their fatherland."

"This story is unexpected and unique! Completely improvised were the military legions, their economic, financial, and cultural activities, their military life, their traditions and entertainments, their non-commissioned officers and their private soldier. These were the military self-made men of the revolution, the real types of their race, who, basically, were not born for the military life. Military geniuses were hardly to be found among them, but most of them were conscientious, thorough, good soldiers, with the deep yearning to be able to do something essential and meaningful. They have exemplified the Czech national spirit well: strong vitality, a tendency toward the practical and not toward the phantastical solutions, perseverance and strength during the struggle toward a goal, but there was some sort of excitability, a certain sensitivity, fanatisme, some unhealthy envy, a pessimistic gullibility regarding inconveniences and an exaggerated criticism — that was in them. By the way, these characteristics could be observed in most of our soldiers in France and Italy also."

"General Syrowy as their leader was a very good type. By his solidarity, straightforwardness, honesty and sound judgment, he inspired trust in his soldiers. They knew that he is not going to lead them into adventures. “

"A special recognition is due to the economical, financial and cultural activities of our army in Siberia. In my opinion, the genius of our race blossomed out there in the most visible way. Out of the great mass of our army, the strongest personalities stepped quite quickly forward, those who were able to organize and divide the work, which, for that matter, was understood by the most modest soldier also, and helped to promote by his contribution.

"The abilities which are larger than average, one should not underestimate. In times, when there were strong fights in Siberia, they have conducted sizable economic undertakings, quickly and successfully. They kept up the traffic, the commerce and the contacts, with Japan and Western Europe, they have established financial institutions and organizations, cultural institutions, newspapers, a theatre, choirs and orchestras, nightclubs, etc., with one word, they have created a virtual administration of social character and on a high "cultural level. This is characteristic of our nation, our preferences, our capabilities, our assets and our disadvantages also. "

One has to restrain himself when he tries to comment on this description. If it had been written by an unknown person, we could forgive him for his naivety or lack of knowledge. But it is the foreign minister of Czechoslovakia, a leader of the Czechs who is not shrinking back from such distortions. The motivations of his actions are clearly presented by his book. The cynicism is staring you in the face. One can read it between the lines how the Czechs were able to mislead the Entente, to let them facing a fait accompli, and thus, to secure more and more gains for themselves.

Miraculously, Benes admits that the troops in Siberia, the Siberian troops, that is, the same legionnaires who betrayed Koltchak and plundered Russia, have prepared the ground for him, in order to achieve success at the peace conference in Paris, and, thus, he could achieve more than what he could hope for at the beginning of the war.

According to the objective documentary proofs of a Swiss scholar,<sup>1</sup> the Czechs were operating with very confused and suspicious means at the peace conference in Paris, in fact, they did not abhor from betraying the conference, particularly in the cases of historical data and the Czech-German linguistic boundaries. Among others, they have promised that they would establish a second Switzerland in which all nations would retain their rights.

And, finally, says Benes, it was proven that only justice and honesty can show the way for nations interests. With lies and brutal force, no nation, great or small, could not as yet defend itself against the blows of fate. Brutal force and power which are not in the service of justice, will be defeated by the end. This should be kept in memory particularly by the small nations. "<sup>2</sup>

Yes, without doubt, it will happen this way. The lies, the looting, the treachery, the robberies, the bloodshed, by which the Czechs have achieved their independence, will bring about the judgment of fate. The sooner it will happen, the better for the mankind which is still putting its faith in justice.

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Masaryk's book is still further away from the truth, than the one by Benes. He wishes to clear not only himself and his Czech compatriots but he is even stating that he was the only one in the world who could foresee all events and actions and this is why he permitted such acts which could appear as fraud and betrayal in the eyes of the outsiders. Benes who is a loyal disciple of Masaryk, and who has named him the apostle and "the Great One" of his nation, mentions also the foresight of Masaryk in his book. This, among

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1 E. Benesch: "Der Auf stand der Nationen." Pages 610, 695.

2 E. Benesch: Ibid. Pages 343 and 345.

others, consisted of that he disclaimed, right from the beginning, the anti-Bolshevik actions by the Russians, and, consequently, the Czech legionnaires were actually always adversaries of the Russians, and, already in the summer of 1918, they took their orientation toward France.<sup>1</sup>

In February, after the first revolution, Masaryk took up a position of waiting to proceed on the good road. "Having received information and I got more or less oriented, I have sent a telegram to Miljukov and Rodzianko in which I have expressed my satisfaction about the collapse of the czarism. " So writes Masaryk.<sup>2</sup>

Soon after, Masaryk also throws himself into the Russian revolution, in order to promote the dissolution of the country by his own action also. At this point, Masaryk makes the following remarks:<sup>3</sup> "Since I have known the antipathies of the reactionary elements against the Allies and against my own person, I did not make any haste to go to Russia during the times of the Czarist government. A possible conflict with the Russian government would have consolidated the Central Powers. "

Masaryk provides a thorough description of his stay at London. He mentions innumerable small details of his private life, about various meetings etc., but he completely forgets to mention that memorandum which he submitted to Sir Edward Grey in April, 1915, "Independent Bohemia" with a map attached ("Map of the United States of Bohemia"). In this memorandum, we find the following, word by word:<sup>4</sup>

"For the Czechs and the Slavs on the Balkan, the friendship with the Russians is the most essential. The Czech politicians are of the opinion that Constantinople

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1 E. Benesch: "Der Aufstand der Nationen". Page 512.

2 T.G. Masaryk: "Die Weltrevolution". Page 113.

3 Ibid. Page 134.

4 H. Hassinger: "Die Tschechoslowakei". Pages 330-331.

and the Straits can belong only to Russia. Bohemia is planned as a monarchic state while the idea of a republic is represented only by a few radical politicians. The problem of the dynasty could be solved in two different ways, either the Allies would give a Prince, or a personal union could be established between Serbia and Bohemia. The Russian dynasty, in whatever form, would be very popular.”

So, Masaryk, in 1915, declares himself as Russophile and a monarchist, and he puts all his hopes in the "Russian brothers" and the Russian dynasty. And, 1917, after the revolution, he declares: "...as much as I have seen through and accursed the Czarism and its impotence." <sup>2</sup> His book is practically flooded with hatred against Russia, the Russians and everything what is Russian. This hatred can be felt in every line of his.

He gives more space in his book for the Czech legionaries than Benes. Sometimes he even admits their plunderings'.<sup>2</sup> "The collapse of Russia made it possible that we could provide ourselves from the Russian stockpiles *brevi manu*." Masaryk mentions occasionally the lack of discipline, the impetuosity, the inclinations for politicking and the extremely Bolshevik way of thinking on the part of the soldiers. However, he himself pushed them in that direction, and, only by the exploitation of the questionable instincts of the masses was he able to secure for himself the popularity, this shadow of prestige.

But let us listen to what the old Czech is writing about his "children" in Russia and Siberia.<sup>3</sup> "About the so-called Anabasis, I only wish to mention here that much what is necessary to the understanding of the completion of the report about our political activities abroad. I was staying in Japan when the fatal event at Chelyabinsk happened. As I was told at that time, a German prisoner-of-war had

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1 T.G. Masaryk: "Die Weltrevolution". Page 314.

2 T.G. Masaryk: "Die Weltrevolution". Page 172.

3 Ibid.

wounded one of our young people on May 14, for which he was beaten to death. The Bolsheviks took sides with the German and Hungarian prisoners, then the other, for us unknown events followed which ended with the occupation of the city by our army. At the end of May, our army units at Chelyabinsk agreed to conduct the forward marching toward Vladivostok. On May 25, the fight really began, the military 'Anabasis \ "Then comes the description of the occupation of the cities: Penza, Samara, Kazan, etc.

This has caused great joy in America where Masaryk did everything to get good winds for his sails. "As everywhere, here too, I have received my support from the Jews<sup>1</sup> and, particularly in America, it paid, if I may say so, to have the 'Hilsnerida' (this is the reference by Masaryk to his activity as a lawyer in the 1899 trials of a Jew, Leopold Hilsner, who was accused of the murder of a girl). Already in 1907, the Jews in New York have organized a great reception in my honor; on this occasion, I had numerous meetings with the representatives of the Orthodox Jews and the Zionists... We have reported the battlefield events directly, by cable, to America, where they got better reception than in Europe. The legionnaires were very popular in America already in the beginning of August, 1918, whereas they became popular only later in Europe. "

"Although as it used to happen in every war, bad news were coming in to me too very soon. At first, they were reporting about the various shortcomings of our army. Since August, the army has left the occupied cities along the Volga. The fight was difficult along such an extended frontline and the occupation of the cities on the Volga was probably a strategical error. Later we have received disturbing news about the moral condition of our army in Siberia. The counter-propaganda of the Bolsheviks and of the army of our enemies began. "2

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1 Ibid. Pages 85 and 249.

2 T.G. Masaryk: "Die Weltrevolution". Page 289.

This last statement was made, probably, by expecting ignorance on the part of the reader, a cheap trick but it has been used by the Czech propagandists with a special liking. Already on the same page, Masaryk is contradicting himself: "I was more embittered, however, by the news of the Allied officers, who arrived from Russia and Siberia, and spoke about the sinking of the discipline in our army. Although these news were published only in part but they have hurt us nevertheless. Regardless: the sympathies of the great majority, the public opinion and the government circle have been secured for us. "

But, where does Masaryk put the Allied officers: among the "Bolsheviks" or his "political enemies"?

"Our troops", continues Masaryk<sup>1</sup>, "have suffered the material hardships in good spirit, and they were troubled rather because of the long lasting absence from their families and their fatherland. It could have been expected that the discipline would fall to some degree, however, in spite of all these and of the many disappointments, the army did not get demoralized. Some of its units went through severe critical phases, which is proven, for example, by the voluntary death of Colonel Schwez also, but it, precisely because of its tragic character, worked rather in an uplifting way."

The entire book abounds in similarly recalled facts which are more or less distorted, and one can feel the intention also that the reader should be misled in some respect. Surely, it was the most important fact that the Czechoslovak army became fully demoralized in Siberia and the honest Schwez, one of the few exceptions in this army corps, has proven exactly this condition by his own tragic death.

Masaryk is telling in a similar vein about the robberies, frauds and brutalities in Siberia: "...The spirit of our army in Siberia should not be judged by us purely on the basis of their military activities. Besides their military work, our soldiers had conducted some economic activities also. In

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid. Page 294

a short time, they have transformed themselves into so-called labor associations (August, 1918). Later on, they have established a chamber of commerce, then a savings institution and a bank. In the Ural and elsewhere too, they have organized industrial enterprises. One has to mention their well organized field post office also. We have to regard everything when we are talking about the activities of our army in Russia and in Siberia. It is not only about the heroic glory of the Anabasis, we do not wish to exaggerate that glory either, but it would be unjust to regard it as an instantaneous enthusiasm only. In this respect, I have to mention that our Siberian Germans were listed in our logbooks also, and they were organized into working brigades. “2

Regarding this last remark, I shall return to it at the end of my book. Concerning the fairytale of the organization of industrial enterprises, it is Masaryk's brainchild. On the contrary, the legionnaires have plundered the existing Russian enterprises. The only Czech organization was the ingenious arrangement of the enormous storage facilities at the trains.

The old is less cautious than the young. Masaryk lets his tongue slip more often than Benes who satisfies himself by dispensing beautiful words and praises. Both of them are covering up for the actions of their "children" in Russia and hiding them. Accordingly, it is applicable to both of them what we have said in an earlier chapter about their minister in Tokyo, Mr. Pergler.

In 1887, in Vienna, Austria, a book was published by C. Ronegen from the pen of T.G. Masaryk, entitled "Essay of Positive Logic". On page 149 of this book, Masaryk writes the following on treason: "Cavour said: if we had done for ourselves what we took upon ourselves for Italy, we would

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1 T.G. Masaryk: "Die Weltrevolution". Page 294.

be the greatest scoundrels, we (Masaryk), however, say that, in our eyes, the meanness of actions is the same, either it was committed for the fatherland, or for other purposes." How far Masaryk and Benes were falling back beyond Cavour!

World politics, up to this point, although it had something common with machinations and treasons, was a child's play compared to the activities of the Czechs.

I would like to mention two more matters: first, that feverish Czech propaganda activity which is spreading everywhere, secondly, about those damages which are caused by such a propaganda not only to the individual states but to the whole of mankind.

All over the world, the Czechs are developing such an expensive propaganda activity which can hardly be compared to anything similar. Their enormously expanded organization makes it possible to besmirch all those who dare to put the origins of the Czechoslovak state in the light of historical truth, — since they are not able to contradict them. However, it is our duty to continue the struggle against the falsehoods of the Czechs. We should loose our faith in mankind if the truth of history would not become victorious. At the present time yet, there is the dishonor which is hiding under the veils of humaneness and heroism.

The fight against these falsehoods is the duty of the righteously thinking people in every nation, moreover, of all honest elements among the Czechs also. They have not acquired the independence of their own state alone with questionable methods but they have expanded their power over other peoples also by the same means. This was the way how the "mosaic state" of Czechoslovakia came about as it is named by Professor Hassinger of Basel. According to him, the population of Czechoslovakia is distributed as follows:

Czech.....	6.430.000
Slovaks .....	1.334.000
Rutenians .....	460.000
Poles.....	75.000
Germans .....	3.123.000
Hungarians .....	1.747.000
Jews .....	18.000
Other peoples .....	23.000
	<hr/>
	Total 13.210.000

Cosequently, for 6.4 million Czechs, there are 6.8 millions of other nationalities.

Regarding the entry of the Sudeten Germans prisoners of war into the ranks of the Czech army, we receive a completely different picture which was entirely unknown in wider circles of the Czech society up to the present days. The Czech leaders have demanded, from every prisoner of war who came from the Austrian or Hungarian regions of the present Czechoslovak republic, the following: those who wished to return from Siberia to Europe, were under obligation not only to become the citizens of this republic, but also to recognize this state with its new "historical" boundaries. For a long time, the prisoners were not willing to accept such an agreement which was against their conscience. Later, however, when they have not seen any other way out, the prisoners-of-war of German and Hungarian origin who came from the area of the present Czechoslovakia, finally brought themselves, under the persuasion of emissaries who came from their fatherland, to sign a document which has obligated them to belong to the "Czechoslovak" nation, and which secured them the possibility to return to their homeland. All these brutalities which were quite often really inhuman, were contributed to by the leaders of the Czech "democracy" also. On the basis of the data which are available about those days we can have on entirely clear and understandable picture. Interesting are also the observations of a neutral bystander:

A Frenchman from Switzerland who, at that time, was staying in Siberia with the Red Cross Mission, and was not a friend either of the White Russians, nor of the Central Powers, writes the following: "A large part of the former Austro-Hungarian subjects did not even wish to hear about the citizenship prescribed by the new boundaries. However, they had to report once a week before the Czech recruiting committee, and all those who did not want to join the Czech army, were, so to say, beaten up officially. This procedure has been documented by the statements of far more people than it could have been contradicted 'from above' "

Anyhow, the Czechs gained quite a reputation in Siberia because of their brutalities which would not be forgotten for quite a while.<sup>1</sup>

It is still worthwhile to listen to the opinion of a neutral person about the means by which the Czechs managed to win over three and a half million Germans for their state.

Namely, Hassinger writes the following: "What means they have used in their work at the peace conferences, it is demonstrated only in the various memoranda which have been mentioned several times already. From the point of view of importance: Memorandum No. III. stands in the center. One can really not know what should be wondered at most in the case of this patchwork: the boldness by which the ignorance of the diplomats about Danubian Central Europe had been exploited, to the mixture of falsehood and brute force, or the false reasoning which sound quite childish time and again?..." "Let us, however, judge the Memorandum as a state document — which, like the other memoirs speaks always in the name of the government — from the point of view it planned to achieve. Because it achieved it. " It is revealed by Hassinger how much "Memoire III" teems with false data.<sup>3</sup>

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1 Dr. Georg Montandon: "Im Schmeitzigel des Fernen Ostens." Vienna, 1923. Page 67.

2 Hassinger. Page 325, etc.

3 Hassinger. Page 382.

We, Russians, who have lost our fatherland because of the treason of the Czechs, and are living since many years abroad, have learned only in Europe that the Slovaks have nothing to do with the race of the Czechs, and there is such a gap between them as between the Russians and the Poles. The Slovaks are mostly simple, modest people. They were loyal to each other because of which they are hated by the Hussite Czechs and, quite often, they are deeply hurt by them. The Slovak is an independent ethnic unit which has no identity with the Czechs regarding its language or personality. The "Czechoslovak" is non-existent, it is only figment! By the way, the Slovaks got into the Czech state the following way:

"In the course of the World War, Masaryk and Benes made a host of agreements with Slovaks living abroad which have guaranteed the broadest independence for Slovakia in the new, common state." In the so-called "Declaration of Moscow 1 on May 16, 1915, they have stated that Slovakia will have its own parliament, independent government and its own, official language. On October 27, 1915, the agreement of Cleveland has verified these conditions anew.

On June 30, 1918, at Pittsburgh, they have concluded a new agreement according to which "Slovakia will have its own government, public administration, parliament and its own laws, and that the official language will be the Slovak".

However, all these remained empty promises on the paper, and the Slovaks were stripped of all of their rights in the new state. Yesterdays conspirators, who are now in the power, do not care about the agreements anymore.

Although Masaryk admits that, in Pittsburgh, on June 30, 1918, the Czechs and Slovaks concluded an agreement, but he contends that it was not a contract, only a

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1 Hassinger. Page 478.

convention. "The other important negotiations took place in Pittsburgh between the Czechs and the Slovaks. On the 30th of June, I signed a convention between the Slovaks and the American Czechs. **This agreement has been made for the pacification of a small Slovak fraction which was dreaming of God knows what sort of independence for Slovakia. I have signed that convention without any hesitation since it was only of local character between the American Czechs and Slovaks.**" What is written by Masaryk, is, in many respects, a deception. But, at that time yet, he needed the dollars of the American Slovaks. Today, anyone who refers to the agreement of Pittsburgh, is being brought to trial as a traitor...

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The purpose of my book was to make known the treason of the Czechs in Siberia. The horrible seeds of 1918 and 1919 will some day grow out from the blood-soaked Russian soil in sheaves, and they will demand justice and retribution from the whole of mankind.

Because there is only one truth and, sooner or later, this truth will be victorious!

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